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**Actress has a ball filling teen queen role**

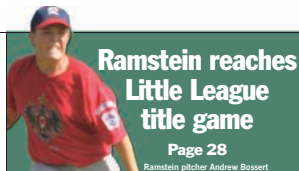
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Hilary Duff, with Chad Michael Murray, in "A Cinderella Story"

**AAFES, Napster join to give troops discount on music**

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**Ramstein reaches Little League title game**

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Ramstein pitcher Andrew Bossert

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2004

# U.S. forces storm cleric's stronghold

Afghan crash kills GI; 2 Marines die in Fallujah helo accident

Page 3



A U.S. soldier stands guard next to detained Iraqi men Thursday in Najaf, southern Iraq. Heavy gunbattles resonated throughout the Muslim holy city after U.S. forces launched an offensive to crush a militia loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

AP

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**STARS & STRIPES**  
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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### World

**Seminary porn:** A papal emissary on Thursday shut down an Austrian seminary where authorities reported finding about 40,000 photos and numerous videos, including child pornography, on computers.

Other photographs of seminary students kissing and fondling each other and their older religious instructors at the seminary also were found in the diocese of St. Poelten, about 50 miles west of Vienna.

"A new beginning is necessary," said Bishop Klaus Kueng, appointed by Pope John Paul II as an "apostolic visitor" to contain the scandal. "I am closing the seminary right away."

**Israel wall dispute:** A group of Palestinians sued two West Bank cement companies Thursday, charging they have been supplying Israel with the material to build parts of its contentious West Bank separation barrier.

A Palestinian commission of inquiry last month found that the Al Tarifi and Barake companies had diverted thousands of tons of cement destined for Palestinian houses to Israel, most of it going to the barrier. Investigators said the firms had schemed to make quick money from Israeli contractors.

**Al-Qaida arrests:** Pakistan authorities arrested five more suspected members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network in the past 48 hours, including "valuable targets," a senior government official said Thursday.

He said the arrests were made during raids in different parts of the country and that the detainees were being questioned in efforts to capture other al-Qaida members.

**Diana investigation:** An appeals court in Paris has ordered the reopening of an investigation to determine if there was any falsification of toxicology tests of the driver held responsible for the fatal car crash that killed Princess Diana in 1997, judicial sources said Thursday.

Tests deemed that the driver, Henri Paul, who was killed along with Diana and her companion Dodi Fayed, had an excessive amount of alcohol in his blood, as well as medication incompatible with alcohol, as he sped through Paris.

Also on Thursday, London parks officials turned the water on again in the problem-plagued Princess Diana Memorial Fountain, but it will remain closed to visitors until next week.

**Nuclear accident:** Japan has ordered safety checks at the country's 52 nuclear plants and 800 non-nuclear power stations to prevent the type of accident that killed four people at a reactor this week, government officials said Thursday.

Government investigators kept up searches and questioning Thursday at the plant at



**California wildfire:** A fast-growing wildfire started by sparks from a lawn mower destroyed at least 40 residences near the eastern edge of Shasta Lake, Calif., forcing hundreds of people to flee. The blaze scorched 3,000 acres by Thursday morning, said Kevin Colburn, spokesman for the state forestry department. The fire was 40 percent contained, but a shift in the wind overnight pushed the fire southward, he said. More than 300 people were evacuated Wednesday. Five people suffered minor injuries. Officials cited the lawn mower operator, and the person might be held responsible for the costs of suppressing the fire, Colburn said.

Mihama, 200 miles west of Tokyo, where a cooling pipe exploded Monday. The operator, Kansai Electric Power, is under suspicion of negligence.

### Nation

**Los Alamos security:** Los Alamos National Laboratory has failed to properly keep track of several computers that handle classified information, an Energy Department report says.

The department's Inspector General's Office, in a followup to a 2003 preliminary report, identified continuing problems that "undermine confidence" in the ability of the New Mexico lab to ensure classified computers are properly managed and "safeguarded from loss or theft."

**Disney death:** Walt Disney Entertainment has been fined \$6,300 for the death of a worker dressed as Pluto who was run over and killed by a float as it entered a Magic Kingdom parade at the Orlando, Fla., park, officials said Wednesday.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration categorized the citation "serious" because employees were exposed to the hazard of being struck by motorized vehicles, according to OSHA.

**Detroit terror trial:** The Bush administra-

tion's already troubled case against an accused terror cell in Detroit is being dealt another blow with revelations that a witness came forward after the trial to undercut a key piece of video evidence presented to jurors.

Lawyers and Justice Department officials said Wednesday night that a man shown in a videotape of landmarks in New York, Las Vegas and California has told investigators the tape was an amateur film and not surveillance as prosecutors portrayed at the trial of four suspected terrorists.

**Ryan charges:** A Chicago judge declined to throw out conspiracy and fraud charges against former Gov. George Ryan and rejected a co-defendant's request for a separate trial.

In the opinion Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer also declined to dismiss charges against the co-defendant, Lawrence Warner.

Ryan has pleaded innocent to racketeering conspiracy, mail fraud, tax fraud, filing false tax returns and making false statements.

A former lobbyist, Warner has pleaded innocent to charges alleging he pocketed about \$3 million from contractors sealed to his clients by Ryan.

Photo and stories from The Associated Press

## Corrections

■ A story in Wednesday's paper about a Stuttgart, Germany, photo artist who said that Leslie Cervantez's photos of herself were taken in 2002, when her daughter was

3½ years old and one year after her husband, Army Sgt. Jose Cervantez was assigned to Stuttgart.

In 2003 she joined her husband in Stutt-

gart.

Leslie Cervantez's exhibit in March at the James F. Byrnes Institute was the second time the photos were shown.

## Messages of Support

★ I have a message for my husband in Iraq... T. M. Sullivan (daddy). We miss you and love you. We are so proud of you. Keep your head down and your spirits up! Love Shannon, Caitlin, Mary Grace & Hannah P.S. The twins are sitting up

Caitlin is learning to ride a bike.

★ My thoughts and prayers are with you! We are doing such a wonderful job. Please be safe, and thank you for protecting our freedom. We love you and God speed

come home soon!!! Please I would like to hear from you, let me know if there is anything you need. Julie

★ Keep on. Our constant prayers are with you, hour by hour. Thank you for your service.

# U.S. forces storm house of radical cleric

## American and Iraqi troops launch major assault on militia in Najaf

BY TODD PITMAN

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — U.S. forces stormed a Najaf house belonging to a radical Shiite cleric who has led a deadly uprising against coalition and Iraqi troops for more than a week, as American and Iraqi soldiers launched a major assault Thursday on his militia-men.

Explosions and gunfire echoed near the revered Imam Ali shrine and its vast cemetery.

Residents saw U.S. forces break into Muqtada al-Sadr's house without meeting any resistance. Al-Sadr, who has vowed to fight "until the last drop of my blood has been spilled," was not there at the time.

It was not immediately known where he went, but residents reported clashes between Iraqi police and members of his Mahdi Army militia near the house Wednesday, which may have prompted most residents to leave the area.

Also, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi called on Shiite militants to put down their weapons and leave the shrine, where they have sought refuge.

"Our government calls upon all the armed groups to drop their weapons and return to society. We also call upon all the armed

men to evacuate the holy shrine and not to violate its holiness," he said.

Coalition forces were trying to crush the uprising in Najaf and other Shiite strongholds across the country.

"Major operations to destroy the militia have begun," said Maj. David Holahan, executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment.

Under U.S. military rules for embedded journalists, reporters are not allowed to reveal exact numbers of U.S. troops, details of planned offensives or other information considered relevant to operational security.

Iraqi National Security Adviser Mouwaffaq al-Rubaie went to Najaf to deal with the situation, his office said without elaborating.

U.S. military Hunveers had moved toward al-Sadr's house and fought with militants there, witnesses said. A large fire raged across the street and at least two helicopters flew above the area.

A column of U.S. tanks lined one edge of the huge cemetery sprawling out from the Imam Ali mosque as a helicopter flew overhead. Soldiers crawled on the roofs of single-story buildings to fire at militants.

Interior Minister Falah Hassan al-Najafi said militia fired mortars from the shrine compound and planted mines there. He also reiterated that no foreign forces would be allowed to enter the shrine.

By afternoon, five civilians had been killed, said Nabil Mohammed, a health worker in Najaf. Two soldiers were wounded by a mortar shell while standing in an intersection on the cemetery's edge, the military said.

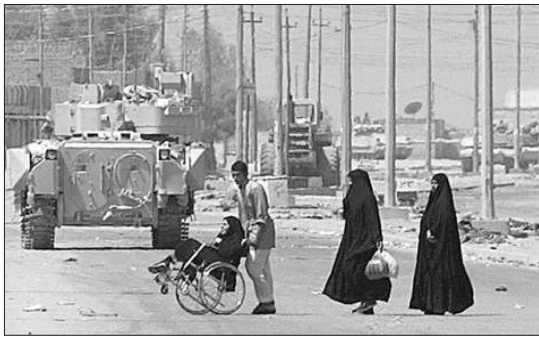
Meanwhile, fighting between al-Sadr supporters and coalition forces killed at least 72 Iraqis in the southern city of Kut on Wednesday in one of the most intense battles in that city in months. Iraqi forces fought off militants who attacked the city hall, police stations and Iraqi National Guard barracks, the U.S. military said.

Residents in Kut, 100 miles southeast of Baghdad, said U.S. and Iraqi troops fought the militants. The U.S. military said only Iraqi forces were involved.

coalition forces were trying to crush the uprising in Najaf and other Shiite strongholds across the country.

Initial military reports indicated that the dead servicemember was a Marine. Meisner, however, said the man was a civilian. He was a soldier, one of the four crewmembers aboard the Black Hawk.

The accident occurred in Khost province at about 2:45 p.m. along Afghanistan's mountainous frontier with Pakistan, he said. She said the aircraft was on a routine mission and not involved in combat operations.



An Iraqi pushes a Shiite woman in a wheelchair past American armored vehicles lining up on the streets, while civilians flee amid heavy gun battles resonating throughout the city of Najaf, Iraq, on Thursday.

Iraq's top Shiite Muslim cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who left Najaf for London to undergo medical treatment when the fighting began a week ago, expressed "deep sorrow and great worry" and called on all sides to resolve the crisis as soon as possible and prevent it from repeating.

Al-Sistani said in a statement that his office was "continuing to exert efforts with all sides, Iraqi officials and others, to put a quick end to the current tragic situation."

Lebanon's most senior Shiite Muslim cleric, Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Hussein Fadallah, criticized Iraq's interim government for allowing the offensive in a city that is holy to the world's 120 million Shiites.

The fighting in Najaf risks endangering Iraq's Shiite majority — including those who do not support al-Sadr's uprising — if it targets the shrine.

U.S. commanders and Iraqi officials said Allawi would have to approve any operation at the shrine itself and any move at the shrine would be conducted only by Iraqi forces.

Nearly 5,000 al-Sadr sympathizers took to the streets in the southern city of Basra on Thursday demanding that U.S. troops withdraw from Najaf and condemning

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, 929 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 691 died as a result of hostile action and 238 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 62 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 791 U.S. servicemembers have died — 582 as a result of hostile action and 209 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defense Department.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 6,276 U.S. servicemembers have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

Allawi for working with the Americans.

Al-Sadr loyalists in Basra threatened on Wednesday to blow up the oil pipelines and port infrastructure there if an offensive was launched.

The U.S. military has estimated that hundreds of insurgents have been killed in the Najaf fighting over the past week, but the militants dispute the figure. Five

Americans have been killed, along with about 20 Iraqi officers.

Al-Sadr's fighters have been battling coalition forces since Aug. 5 in a resurgence of a spring uprising that was dormant for two months following a series of truces. The cleric exhorted his followers Wednesday to fight on even if he was killed.

Associated Press writer Abdul Hussein al-Obeidi in Najaf contributed to this report.

## Copter crash kills 2

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Two U.S. Marines were killed when a CH-53 helicopter crashed landed in Anbar province, the military said Thursday.

Three other people were injured in the crash on Wednesday night, and evacuated to a military medical facility and treated for injuries.

The helicopter was flying into Anbar province, a volatile, Sunni-dominated region west of Baghdad "in support of security and stabilization operations" when it crashed, the military said in a statement.

The military said that no enemy fire was observed at the time of the crash, and it was investigating the incident.

From wire reports

# Black Hawk crashes in eastern Afghanistan, killing one

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — An Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter shutting U.S. Marines crashed in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday afternoon, killing one crewmember and injuring 14 troops.

The crash was not a result of hostile fire, said Lt. Col. Susan Meisner, an Army spokeswoman in Kabul. The transportation heli-

copter was destroyed.

Initial military reports indicated that the dead servicemember was a Marine. Meisner, however, said the man was a civilian. He was a soldier, one of the four crewmembers aboard the Black Hawk.

The accident occurred in Khost province at about 2:45 p.m. along Afghanistan's mountainous frontier with Pakistan, he said. She said the aircraft was on a routine mission and not involved in combat operations.

The injured Army crew and Marines were evacuated to Forward Operating Base Salerno in Khost. Because of their injuries, four of the troops were then medevaced to the Army surgical hospital at Bagram Air Base, the main hub for U.S. operations in Afghanistan.

The only major Marine unit currently in Afghanistan is the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C. The unit is based at FOB Salerno.

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment — part of the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division — provide the vast majority of Black Hawk helicopters in the country.

Fully loaded, Black Hawks carry a crew of four and 11 passengers.

Meisner said the cause of the accident was under investigation.

This is the fourth fatal helicopter crash in Afghanistan since the U.S. invasion almost three years

ago. All of the crashes have been accidents.

The last occurred on Nov. 23, 2003, when an Air Force MH-53 Pave Low crashed near Bagram, killing one soldier and three airmen.

This latest crash marks the 129th servicemember to die supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and the 32nd fatality this year.

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at: andersonj@mail.strips.com

# Neighborhood gratified by battalion's work

BY JASON CHUDY  
Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — It took an American invasion to get Arabia's Hatif's neighborhood a sewer system.

"For 35 years, there has been no sewer system," said Hatif through an interpreter on Monday. "Power is now better than it was in the past and water pressure is, too."

To prove his point, Hatif grabbed a plastic hose from a small area in back of his house and turned it on for Lt. Col. Brian Dosa, commander of the 8th Engineer Battalion, who was touring electrical and sewage projects in the sprawling Zafaraniya neighborhood.

A stream of clear water poured out and Dosa ran his hands underneath it, to the delight of Hatif.

"There's good water pressure," Dosa said. "But the quality, we're still working on it."

His Baghdad-based 8th Engineers have been managing construction projects for basic essential services in two of the city's nine districts.

"We define these as sewer, water, electricity and trash," Dosa said earlier. "[In Zafaraniya] those basic services were in terrible shape."

Dosa said that a nearby electric plant is receiving a \$20 million overhaul, having not received maintenance for decades.

"When coalition forces came in, I don't think we appreciated how bad the power generating plants were," he said. "Instead of minor renovations, we're having to do full overhauls."

Because of the neglect, Dosa said, some were operating at 20 percent to 25 percent efficiency.

To compound Zafaraniya's problems, 16,000 pieces of unexploded ammunition — ranging from mortar rounds to rocket-propelled grenades — were spread over an area of about three football fields in the middle of the neighborhood.

Fixing Zafaraniya's problems would require an army of manpower. Luckily, the U.S. Army stepped in.

The engineers contracted out millions of dollars' worth of essential service projects to international corporations and Iraqi businesses. An Australian explosive ordnance disposal team, engineers and infantrymen from Army and National Guard units, plus neighborhood residents cleaned up the ammunition.



These projects aren't only improving Zafaraniya's basic living conditions, but also are providing a few area residents with jobs. Dosa said the contracts required the hiring of local workers.

"As you can see, it is a poor neighborhood with peaceful people," said Hatif. "But most are unemployed."

Most of its residents were out of work during the Saddam Hussein regime, too, he said. Zafaraniya is broken up into clusters of *mahalas*, or houses. Hatif lives in Mahala 949, also known as the "Sinbad Quarter."

Dirt streets are torn up throughout Zafaraniya's *mahalas*, either through neglect or design.

"We wanted to get the sewers first because they're lower in the ground," Dosa said. "Then water, followed by paving and curbs."

Dosa met with dozens of construction



PHOTOS BY JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Above: Arabia's Hatif holds a garden hose as Lt. Col. Brian Dosa, commander of the 8th Engineer Battalion, washes his hands. The 8th Engineers have been working on water and sewage projects in the southern Baghdad neighborhood of Zafaraniya. Hatif has lived in this house since 1973.

Left: Construction workers lay a plastic sewer pipe into a ditch Monday in Baghdad's Zafaraniya neighborhood.

workers, local officials and area residents along the streets that were undergoing work.

"Now that they understand our intentions, they're great," Dosa said about Zafaraniya's residents. Attacks on his soldiers are rare, and at one stop Monday someone gave soldiers details of a recent mortar attack.

Sgt. Michael Brinton, a member of the battalion's security detail, said that completion of the sewer system will bring a visible change to the neighborhood. The unit visits projects nearly every day.

"You can see the streets lined with sewage," he said, watching groups of barefoot children who were themselves watching the soldiers. "It's like living in Venice, but only with sewage instead of water."

Most residents hold their human waste in tanks, Hatif said, with trucks coming every week to haul it away. Everything else goes into the streets.

In a few months, engineers and residents alike hope Zafaraniya's streets will be cleared of sewage, the waste pumped to a water treatment plant about six miles away.

Its electrical distribution system, damaged by coalition bombing and looting, is nearly completed, and clean water will soon be flowing from its taps and hoses.

"We didn't find anything good with the last regime," said Hatif.

Because of family ties — his wife and mother-in-law are Iranian — and his father's three-year prison sentence for being a leading member of the communist party, Hatif had never expected to have even these basic services.

"All we got was oppression," he said. "Now, the people of this neighborhood are happy."

E-mail Jason Chudy at:  
chudyj@mail.starsandstripes.osd.mil

## Texas Guard unit redesignated as part of 36th ID

BY JASON CHUDY  
Stars and Stripes

About 180 Texas Army National Guard soldiers deployed to Iraq with A Troop Provisional (Special), 1st Squadron, 124th Armored Cavalry are sporting new shoulder patches as their parent armored division was recently redesignated as an infantry division.

The soldiers had deployed to Iraq from the 49th Armored Division in March, but on May 1 the unit became the 36th Infantry Division.

The change from armored to infantry was done to align the unit with active Army divisions, according to the Texas Army National Guard Web site.

"The first purpose for the change is to start changing the mind of the Texas Army National Guard from a heavy armored force to a light, more versatile infantry force," said Maj.

Trey Roberson, Texas ANG Force integration and readiness officer, in an introduction on the unit's Web site.

"The second purpose is to bring back the historic lineage of the 36th Infantry Division," he said.

The change from the 49th to the 36th is more than symbolic to the soldiers.

"It's definitely a change," said Sgt. James Zigler. "I'm a tanker, so I'll have to change [jobs] to stay with the unit."

The Guardsmen are attached to the 89th Military Police Brigade near the Iranian border northeast of Baghdad.

"Putting on the 36th's patch is more than an honor, it's the highest honor we can get," said Sgt. Ernest Jackson. "We're the first group since World War II to be awarded the 36th's combat patch."

Those soldiers serving in Iraq will be able to wear either the 49th or 36th's patch on the right shoulder as their combat patch.



"Basically, we started wearing it last month," said Zigler. "The brigade commander of the 89th [Col. David Phillips] gave us a little ceremony for the new patch."

"It looks like everyone's proud to put this patch on," said Sgt. Gary Dechaume.

About 12,000 National Guard soldiers will now wear the T-patch, as it is called. Its arrowhead shape represents Oklahoma while the large "T" in the center is for Texas.

The 36th was activated for World War I, made up of Guards-

men from Oklahoma and Texas, and re-activated for World War II. The division fought in the Meuse-Argonne offensive in France during WWI and in Italy and France during WWII.

E-mail Jason Chudy at:  
chudyj@mail.starsandstripes.osd.mil

JASON CHUDY  
Stars and Stripes



# Court-martial begins for Army officer in SUV theft

## Lt. allegedly told men to take sheik's vehicle

The Associated Press

FORT CAMPBELL, Kentucky — An Army lieutenant allegedly ordered his soldiers to find him a vehicle after his broke down, then tried to cover up the theft of a sheik's sport utility vehicle in Iraq, military prosecutors said.

In opening statements Wednesday at the court-martial of 1st Lt. Bradley Pavlik, prosecutor Capt. Howard Hoegge said the officer "led his platoon down a road of misconduct."

Pavlik's civilian attorney, Frank Spinner, said the officer was just sticking up for his soldiers, and that he later tried to turn the stolen vehicle in to the Army. Spinner said it was refused.

"It appears that Lt. Pavlik's platoon led him down a path," Spinner said.

In July, a soldier in Pavlik's platoon, Sgt. 1st Class James Williams, 37, was convicted of stealing the SUV in April 2003, the jury recommended he serve no prison time.

At his trial Williams said he took the vehicle only because Pavlik ordered him to, and that he didn't think it was a criminal act.

Early in the war, soldiers were allowed to "commandeer" civilian vehicles for military purposes under the rules of engagement.

They were instructed to leave a receipt so the vehicle could be returned to the owner or money could be given to them.

Williams said Pavlik was angry when his own vehicle had broken down and told squad leaders to find him another.

The SUV was taken without force but no receipt was left.

The Army later paid Sheik Ahmed W. Al-Faisal \$32,000.

A second soldier in the platoon served a year in prison for his role in the theft.

Besides the robbery charge, Pavlik faces a charge of making a false statement, and a charge of conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline.

Pavlik pleaded guilty earlier this week to violating a general order and of conduct unbecoming an officer; another charge of violating a general order was dismissed.

It was not immediately known what penalty the remaining charges carry upon conviction, and a call to the public affairs office at Fort Campbell was not immediately returned Wednesday night.

**"It appears that Lt. Pavlik's platoon led him down a path."**

**Frank Spinner**

civilian attorney of  
1st Lt. Bradley Pavlik

## Iraq to select assembly

BAGHDAD — Iraq's delayed national conference to select an interim national assembly will convene Sunday, Minister of State Qasim Dawoud announced Thursday.

The conference, considered a crucial step in the country's move toward democracy, was to have been held in late July, but was delayed to allow more time for preparations — a postponement encouraged by the United Nations.

Some areas of the country complained last month that they hadn't been given enough time to agree on delegates, and officials expressed worries the gathering would be a target for terror attacks. The postponement was announced the day after a car bombing killed 70 people in Baquba, underscoring the continuing wave of violence across the country.

In addition, key political groups had threatened to boycott the conference. U.N. officials wanted more time in hopes of persuading those factions to attend, but it wasn't immediately clear Thursday if they had changed any minds.

"We invite everyone to take part in the political process," Dawoud told reporters.

The conference, made up of 1,000 delegates from Iraq's 18 provinces as well as tribal, religious and political leaders, is intended to help choose a 100-member national assembly that will counterbalance the interim government.

The assembly will have the power to approve the national budget, veto executive orders with a two-thirds majority and appoint replacements to the Cabinet in the event a minister dies or resigns.

The meeting is scheduled to last three days.

## Tikrit rail spur opens

Forward Operating Base Speicher opened its gates to its first train last weekend after months of rail repairs by U.S. soldiers and Iraqis, 1st Infantry Division officials said.

The Iraqi Railroad train into Speicher — the Army's logistics hub in Tikrit — consisted of 25 flatcars, which were to be used to carry shipping containers to Baghdad, according to a news release from Task Force Danger headquarters in Tikrit.

Soldiers from the 368th Cargo Transfer Company loaded the containers, which ultimately will be shipped through the port in Kuwait City.

Like other infrastructure in Iraq, the railroads had been neglected under Saddam Hussein's leadership during the 1990s.

The 1.8-mile spur from Tikrit to Speicher hadn't been used since 1991, the release said.

Army officials predict the railroad will prove to be safer than the country's highways for shipping cargo.

Task Force Danger, under the leadership of the 1st ID, is the division-size unit responsible for security in north-central Iraq.

From staff and wire reports

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Reporter Jason Chudy tells your story from your perspective.



# Sigonella hopes to cut back on car accidents

BY KENDRA HELMER  
Stars and Stripes

Naval Air Station Sigonella is trying to put the brakes on traffic accidents.

With about 400 accidents involving U.S. personnel in Sicily this year, the base is looking at ways of cutting down on mishaps.

"We basically have a new (commander), and he thinks it's appalling," said Lt. Steve Curry, base spokesman. "... So we're in a place where we're going to get a handle on this."

The base commander, Capt. Joe Stuyvesant, addressed the issue this month at an all-hands call with sailors in grades E-4 and below. Curry said the commander warned sailors that if they don't shape up, he might institute a curfew, since most accidents occur after midnight.

"He's going to have another

meeting with them [sailors] after Labor Day," Curry said. "He gave them a month."

There have been 14 accidents this month, two of which involved injuries.

One sailor crossed the center line and hit another sailor's vehicle head-on, totaling both cars. And another sailor, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, crossed the centerline and hit a local national's vehicle head-on, hurting himself and the other driver, according to a base newspaper column written by Stuyvesant.

Last year, there were 751 accidents involving Sigonella personnel.

Though that's nearly double the number of accidents for far this year, the base is about on target for the average number of accidents in a year, said Woody Olasin, traffic safety specialist.

"Last year at this time, we had about the same number," he said. "It's usually from here until December we skyrocket."

The good news, Curry said, is that citations for driving under the influence are down. There were 58 DUIs in 2003. So far this year, there have been 18.

Two weeks ago, a group comprised of base leadership, security and safety personnel met to come up with strategies to reduce accidents, said Steve Lebeda, Sigonella safety director.

The base may start restricting rental cars to older personnel. Ninety-five percent of accidents in Sigonella involve drivers 25 and under, Olasin said. "One of our high stats (involving accidents) is young drivers in rental cars," Lebeda said.

The base also plans to make penalties stricter, especially for repeat offenders.

"We found that the people that were having the most accidents were the... people who had been in previous accidents," Lebeda said.

Lebeda said the base also might talk to the local government about having U.S. military personnel participate in traffic enforcement off base.

The vast number of accidents is caused by speed and inattentiveness, Olasin said. Seventy-four percent of accidents have occurred on clear, sunny days. In more than 60 percent, an American was at fault.

Lebeda said the rural country-side is too tempting for some drivers with a lead foot.

"There are a lot of open roads that go through farm country, so you don't get that busy, intercity-type of traffic that slows you down," he said.

"People just apply too much

## Traffic statistics

### Accidents

2004 (so far): 396  
2003: 751  
2002: 664  
2001: 617

### Incidents of DUI

2004 (so far): 18  
2003: 58  
2002: 35  
2001: 33

Sigonella Safety Office

speed and then they don't have enough time to make an evasive reaction."

So far this year, accidents have sent 69 Americans to the hospital. Two Italians were killed earlier this year when a sailor driving a government 10-ton truck struck their vehicle.

E-mail Kendra Helmer at: [helmerk@mail.strips.osd.mil](mailto:helmerk@mail.strips.osd.mil)



SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

An unidentified sailor helps pump fuel into an airplane Thursday at Naval Station Rota, Spain. The Navy base's Fuel Division has pumped 374 million gallons of fuel in fiscal 2004, second in the Navy to Diego Garcia.

## Rota stays busy pumping fuel

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER  
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — This was a busy place last year.

The fuel pump statistics tell the story.

Last year, the naval station's Fuel Division pumped 374 million gallons of fuel to planes, ships and vehicles. Nobody knows if it is a base record, but it was second only to Diego Garcia worldwide.

It is one of the reasons why the base was named the runner-up for the 2004 American Petroleum Institute Award, established to recognize the top fuel operators in the Navy. American Petroleum Institute is an international recognized trade organization.

"It's like our Super Bowl," Chief Petty Officer Rey Noblezza

said. "It's a prestigious award."

Pilots and ship captains crossing the globe have come to rely on Rota as a place to get some rest and some fuel. The base served as a major hub during the early months of the Iraq war and throughout the war on terror.

The division's team of 21 military personnel — in addition to a cadre of local-national civilian employees — has been working around the clock to provide service to meet the demand.

To put the volume of fuel pumped last year into perspective, the base typically pumped between 50 million and 75 million gallons annually before the war, said Petty Officer 1st Class Timothy Clark, the division's leading petty officer.

Being named runner-up helps show how busy the Navy base has been, he added.

"Without question we have opened everyone's eyes to what Rota can do," Clark said.

The relatively small staff of sailors in the division work 12-hour shifts to ensure that they can provide 24-hour service.

Rota was tied with Jacksonville, Fla., in the Navy Bulk Fuel Terminals category. Diego Garcia took the top spot. In the Navy retail fuel activities category, Sigonella was the runner-up to Ventura County, Calif.

The institute has sponsored the annual awards since 1989. Winners are selected based on such factors as fuel operation and mission support, maintenance, training, safety and inventory control.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: [schonauer@mail.strips.osd.mil](mailto:schonauer@mail.strips.osd.mil)

## U.S., Russia to sign plan for military cooperation

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov and his U.S. counterpart Donald Rumsfeld are expected to sign a military cooperation plan for 2005 at an upcoming meeting, a source in the Defense Ministry said Thursday, the Interfax-Military news agency reported.

During talks Saturday in St. Petersburg,

Ivanov and Rumsfeld are to sign a document outlining exchanges between Russian and U.S. military delegations for the next year, the report said. The officials also plan to discuss ways of countering global security threats including terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

Moscow also intends to discuss

the U.S. plan to upgrade an early warning radar station in Greenland, which Russian officials fear may threaten their country.

The source reiterated concerns voiced this week by the Foreign Ministry about the station, which is to play a crucial role in a planned U.S. missile-defense system.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's strong support for the United States following the Sept. 11 terror attacks bolstered U.S.-Russian relations, but they have been hurt by the U.S. invasion of Iraq, which Russia vehemently opposed.

On Thursday, Moscow renewed its calls for holding an international conference on Iraq, saying it would help improve the security situation there.

## Messages of Support



To all of our service men and women overseas. Our prayers and thoughts are with you during this very trying time in history. Your bravery and willingness to fight for your country to protect our freedom is a talent and gift that is more than my being can imagine. The emotional and physical strain that you must be going through is a sign of true heroism in itself. We are behind you 100% and hope that America holds strong and this war can be concluded soon. I wish you a safe and healthy return to your loved ones. Thank you for protecting our country. God Bless You All. Sarah Grieco

# AAFES, Napster team up to offer discounts

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER  
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — Online music vendor Napster announced Wednesday that it will offer U.S. service members discounted rates on its digital tracks and subscription service.

The company has struck a deal with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service that will give more than 11.5 million active, reserve and retired military personnel and their families access to 750,000 tracks at reduced prices.

"People are looking for a legal source for downloadable music," said John McWhorter, AAFES general merchandiser manager, by telephone from Dallas. "And with

## Exchange customers can download cheaper

our customer base, we have troops that are stationed all over the world in remote locations, this is just a good situation for us."

Napster's usual fee to download a single track is 99 cents, according to its Web site. Exchange customers can download a song for 88 cents each, an 11 percent discount, McWhorter said.

Napster's fee to download an entire CD is about \$9.95, but AAFES customers can

grab a CD online for about \$8.95, about 10 percent cheaper. For \$8.95, servicemembers can get Napster's subscription service, which normally costs

\$9.95, according to its Web site.

Customers can access Napster through www.CentricMail.com, a Web site with 40 online vendors available to authorized exchange customers. They can pay for the music through the Military Star Card cred-

it card or other accepted credit cards.

AAFES began looking to team up with a music downloading service because customers had asked for it, McWhorter said. Digital MP3 players have become big sellers at AAFES stores worldwide.

Angela Terry, AAFES vice president for direct marketing, said offering music through the Internet will allow them to satisfy the music demands of overseas personnel or those deployed around the world.

"You know, we have a lot of different sized stores out there and they can't always carry deep catalogues of music," Terry said. "This provides us an alternative to providing that deep catalogue to our customers no matter where they are."

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: [schonauer@mail.esrpress.com](mailto:schonauer@mail.esrpress.com)



## Computer upgrades headed to Ramstein

BY MARNI MCENTREE  
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — A new computer program will give air traffic controllers and pilots a more accurate "roadmap of the sky," thanks to the first software upgrade in 20 years.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe Terminal Instrument Procedures specialists — who provide terrain models and map out obstacles for pilots approaching airfields — just completed a two-week training program in the new system, said Capt. Mack Coker, commander of the USAFE Air Procedures Flight.

The USAFE specialists develop the flight books used by pilots to navigate into airfields in the European Command and Central Command areas of operation.

The old computer program allowed the specialists to account for up to 10,000 obstacles — such as radio and electrical towers — in a 100 nautical-mile area. The new program allows them to account for 23 million obstacles in the same area.

The new system allows the airmen to look at an airfield with a 3-D perspective, so they can see whether a tower or other obstacle would interfere with an aircraft approach.

The program was developed by the Canadian company MacDonald Dettwiler.

The new system will be up and running in about two weeks, he said. The airmen also have to re-create about 875 aircraft approach procedures for the regions they cover, using the new program, said Master Sgt. John Figgins, noncommissioned officer in charge of the flight.

It also allows them to build in international civil aviation requirements — especially important as Ramstein begins accepting flights from Rhein-Main Air Base next year. Under the terms of that transition, the Air Force must abide by the international civil aviation standards, Figgins said.

E-mail Marni McEntree at: [mcentree@mail.esrpress.com](mailto:mcentree@mail.esrpress.com)



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## Navy officer gets jail time for wearing 12 unearned medals

The Associated Press

QUANTICO, Va. — A Navy officer has been sentenced to nearly four months in prison for wearing 12 medals he didn't earn.

Capt. Roger Edwards, 54, of Mayo, Md., was sentenced Friday after pleading guilty to one charge of wearing the ribbons, which include the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross and four Purple Hearts.

He is being held in a Marine Corps brig.

A military psychiatrist told the general court-martial that Edwards suffered from post-traumatic syndrome from his service in the Vietnam War, as well as depression and a "narcissistic personality."

"He wanted to live up to the expectations people had of him," defense attorney Charles Gittins said.

A tipster reported Edwards to a Navy Inspector General hot line.

But, according to Gittins, Edwards' military record, which spanned 36 years, didn't need padding.

It included a stint as executive assistant to the Marine Corps' top medical officer. In October 2002, he was made an "Honorary Marine," one of the Marines' highest honors.

Most recently, Edwards was in a unit credited with saving Marines' lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Gittins said it was unusual for an officer to be imprisoned for a nonviolent offense.

He said he would ask Navy officials to intervene and have Edwards released.

Under the plea agreement,

the secretary of the Navy will determine Edwards' final rank.

It could be the last rank he achieved before he started wearing the unearned medals. He also will be allowed to keep his retirement benefits.

If the case had gone to trial, Edwards would have faced up to six months confinement, dismissal from the service and forfeiture of all pay and retirement.

He was scheduled to retire in August 2003 but was held on active duty because of the legal actions.

Edwards, an ordained Episcopal priest at St. Andrew the Fisherman Church in Mayo, also could lose his right to serve as a priest, as well as his pharmacist's license in Virginia.

A spokesman for Robert Illoff, the Episcopal Church's bishop of Maryland, said Edwards could not serve as a priest because of the court-martial. Substitute ministers are caring for the church in the interim, Illoff's office said.

Edwards was considered well-liked and a good friend by members of the congregation.

"We know him as an excellent priest, and our love and prayers are with him as a parish," Marie Ciavich, Edwards' assistant in the church office, told The (Annapolis) Capital.

At Friday's hearing, Edwards fought back tears while he read a statement admitting guilt.

"The wrongful wearing of these awards diminishes those awards and respect to those individuals who were authorized to wear them," he said.

The conviction was first reported in the Marine Corps Times on Monday.

## Delivering a winner

Post office at NAS Keflavik, Iceland, gets top marks

Stars and Stripes



STEPHEN WILLIAMS/Courtesy of U.S. Navy

A postal service employee unloads the mail picked up from the Keflavik Airport in Iceland. The mail is then sorted and prepared for the day's mail call. The post office at Naval Air Station Keflavik received a perfect score during a recent inspection.

The post office at NAS Keflavik, Iceland, received the highest possible score following an inspection last week by the U.S. Navy's postal adviser in Europe. "They got a perfect score," Chief Petty Officer Victor Gonzalez said in the news release announcing the inspection results. "Out of 282 points possible, they received 282. It's the best post office I've seen in theater so far."

Gonzalez, based in Naples, Italy, spent three days at the base doing the inspection. He has visited every post office in theater, including those on ships assigned to Europe.

Gonzalez looked at everything from the handling of registered mail and money orders to customer service and transportation of mail, the release said.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Shawn Gibbons, the postal officer at the base, was pleased with the report.

"To be honest with you, based on our reputation, I'm not surprised," he was quoted as saying in the release. "My folks do take pride in what they do."

Gonzalez agreed. "These guys have done an outstanding job, all the way from senior chief to the seamen," he said in the release.

According to the release, Gonzalez said he usually has some advice or suggestions for postal crews, but he could think of nothing to help the Keflavik staff.

"Normally, I do have something to say," he said. "So that shows how well they're running this operation, how impressive."

"The only suggestion I had was, please keep doing what they're doing," he said.

### Soloists to perform

Two renowned soloists will perform with the U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus during a free concert Sept. 1 in Plankstadt, Germany.

Zenon Kitowski, the principal clarinetist with the Polish Radio and Television Orchestra in Warsaw, and Sgt. Maj. Woody English, who has performed in Washington, D.C., with the United States Army Band for more than 26 years, will take part in the concert, set for 7:30 p.m. at the Mehrzweckhalle in Plankstadt.

Plankstadt is located on the L543 between Heidelberg and Schweigen.

The concert will include a variety of selections from the band.

Admission is free and tickets are not required.

For more information, call 06302-80-6146 or visit the band's Web site at: <http://www.1per.com.army.mil/BAND/default.htm>.

### Hanau's commander

HANAU, Germany — Col. Herman "Tracy" Williams III will become commander of the 104th Area Support Group in a ceremony Wednesday.

Williams, who comes to Hanau from the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., takes over for Col. George A. Latham.

Latham left Hanau on Aug. 3 to serve as the U.S. Central Command's director of force protection, forward, in Qatar.

The 104th Area Support Group has control over four base support battalions: the 221st BSB in Wiesbaden, the 222nd BSB in Baumholder, the 284th BSB in Giessen and the 414th BSB in Hanau.

The ceremony is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday at Yorkhof Casern, Hanau.

From staff reports

### Try this on for size



MICHAEL TOLZMANN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Staff Sgt. John Sanchez, of the 236th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), based in Landstuhl, Germany, allows children to try on his flight helmet at the Stara Zagora University Hospital in Bulgaria. Sanchez's flight team arrived on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at the hospital to help establish potential emergency treatment during exercise Bulwark '04. The monthlong exercise ends this week.





# War Is Tough on Families

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Marsha Evans  
President and CEO, American Red Cross  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)



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*Together, we can save a life*

## IN THE WORLD

## Incoming EU chief unveils new commission

BY PAUL GETTNER

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The incoming chief of the European Union's executive branch unveiled his team for the next five years Thursday, giving key posts to reform-minded figures in a bid to spur Europe's sluggish economic growth.

Aware of the public skepticism and apathy that usually confronts the Brussels bureaucracy, European Commission President-designate Jose Manuel Barroso also created a new job — vice president in charge of communication strategy — and tapped Margot Wallström, a personable Swede, to fill it.

"I want to put the commission in the driving seat of a Europe that benefits our citizens," Barroso told reporters. "People need to know what the European Union does and why."

Barroso said the main message he wanted to send was a commitment to generate jobs and growth in Europe's hobbled economies and to ally public forces about globalization, outsourcing and liberalization.

"We must seek new high-tech means to foster growth while maintaining our industrial base," Barroso said. "Only by creating new jobs can we build on our successful European social model."

While giving Germany and France — two of the continent's biggest, albeit weakest, economies — traditional heavyweight portfolios, he demonstrated an early willingness to tilt against the Paris-Berlin axis by handing some of the most influential jobs to what he termed "reform-minded commissioners."

Arguably the most important portfolio — competition, which covers antitrust and state aid policy — went to Neelie Kroes, a former Dutch minister and trained economist, who unlike her predecessor also has extensive experience in the business world.

Italy's Mario Monti, who holds the post until the current commission's five-year mandate expires at the end of October, made a name for himself in global markets by taking on the likes of General Electric Co. and Microsoft Corp.

He spent most of his career in academia and was often criticized — especially in the

United States — for relying too much on questionable economic theories.

Ireland's Charlie McCreevy was put in charge of market rules within the 25-nation bloc, including financial services, while taxation was given to Latvia's Ingrida Udre, a sign that efforts by France and Germany to impose uniform corporate tax rates would not go far.

McCreevy, Irish finance minister since 1997, presided over the EU's most dynamic economy, spurred by pro-business policies and relatively low business taxes — a model copied by many of the new countries that joined the EU last May, including Latvia.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's close friend, Peter Mandelson, takes over the trade portfolio, as well as the "international dimension of competitiveness."

Mandelson, who helped Blair inject more free-market policies into the British Labour Party, will now be charged with seeing through the final stages of global trade talks.

"Europe will continue to benefit from globalization as long as trade and investment

are further liberalized and if Europe preserves its long-term competitiveness, its capacity for innovation and its social market economy," Mandelson said in a statement.

France and Germany both got vice presidencies — but less glamorous portfolios.

Jacques Barrot, a close ally of French President Jacques Chirac, was put in charge of transport, while Germany's Guenter Verheugen will have responsibility for enterprise and industry.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder had been pushing for Verheugen to be a "super commissioner" overseeing all economic issues, but Barroso kept that status for himself, allowing Verheugen to focus on making sure the EU's new president fully handicap EU companies that must compete with U.S. and Asian rivals.

"It could work fairly effectively," said Alasdair Murray, senior analyst at the Centre for European Reform in London. "The Germans were so upset about the (EU) chemicals directive, they want anything coming out of environment to be thoroughly checked."



Mandelson

Barroso



Kroes



McCreevy

## Turkey train crash prompts calls for official to resign

BY SUZAN FRASER

The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey's third deadly train accident in as many weeks triggered fresh calls Thursday for the resignation of the country's transport minister, accused by many of mismanagement.

Railway officials said a passenger train from Ankara to Istanbul sped past a red stop signal and rammed into an oncoming train in Wednesday's crash near the village of Tavşancıl, about 50 miles east of Istanbul. The accident killed eight people and injured 88 others, officials said.

The collision once more highlighted problems in Turkey's aging rail network, where some tracks date back to the 19th century and have seen little improve-

ments.

Opposition lawmakers blamed the crash on poor management of the rail system and renewed their calls for Transport Minister Binali Yildirim to resign.

"If he doesn't resign now, then when?" asked Kemal Anadol, a lawmaker from the opposition Republican People's Party. "How many more people must die before he resigns?" said Ali Topuz, another legislator.

Turkey's daily Radical newspaper also called on Yildirim and other officials to step down with a headline that read: "Are you still going to sit on those chairs?"

The accident comes just three weeks after a newly inaugurated high-speed train from Istanbul to Ankara derailed, killing 37 people — one of the worst train accidents in Turkey.



People gather at a crash site Wednesday after two passenger trains collided near the village of Tavşancıl in Kocaeli province, Turkey.

The July 22 derailment — which occurred about 60 miles from Wednesday's crash — was a major embarrassment to the government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who personally launched the train in June. The government has undertaken three separate investigations into that accident.

Three days after the derailment, a passenger train slammed into a minibus at a western rail-

road crossing, killing 15 people and injuring four others.

Initial calls for Yildirim's resignation followed the train derailment. Many accused him of pressing ahead with the high-speed train project despite warnings by experts about the risks.

Yildirim has rejected the calls to step down. "There is no situation that would warrant my resignation," he said late Wednesday.

## Rumsfeld thanks U.S. ally

## Azerbaijani president praised for war effort

The Associated Press

BAKU, Azerbaijan — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld thanked Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on Thursday for his country's support in the war on terrorism.

Rumsfeld spoke with Aliyev on a trip to visit U.S. allies in the region.

"We value that relationship, the cooperation that your country has demonstrated from the very outset of the global war on terror, your valuable assistance, effective assistance in both Iraq and Afghanistan," Rumsfeld said.

Defense Minister Gen. Col. Safar Abiyev assured Rumsfeld that his country is committed to keeping 150 soldiers in Iraq, Azerbaijan is the only predominantly Muslim country that has contributed troops to the multinational coalition in Iraq. Azerbaijan also has 22 troops in Afghanistan.

"We are two allies, we work together on a variety of issues of world importance, including in our mutual agreement in the energy project, participating in creating a more secure and safe world, contributing to regional stability and peace in the region," Aliyev said, speaking in English.

Aliyev also thanked U.S. support in modernizing its military and resolving a territorial dispute with Armenia. The United States, meanwhile, is appealing to Caspian Sea nations as foils to Iran and as sources of oil and gas.

## Libya rejects U.S. demand for bombing compensation

The Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya — Libya on Wednesday rejected a call from the United States for compensation for U.S. victims of a 1986 Berlin hotel/disco bombing, a day after Tripoli signed a settlement for non-American victims.

German and Libyan officials signed a \$35 million agreement Tuesday for 170 non-U.S. victims of the April 5, 1986, bombing in western Berlin.

The attack killed three, including two U.S. servicemen, and injured more than 200.

Wounded Germans and the family of a slain Turkish woman were covered by the deal. Lawyers are seeking separate compensation in U.S. courts for American victims.

On Tuesday, State Department spokesman Adam Ereli welcomed news of the accord but emphasized claims of U.S. victims must be resolved.

But Libyan Foreign Ministry spokesman

Hassouna al-Shawish rejected Ereli's call.

"America instead should compensate Libyan families who lost dozens of their children in the war launched by [former President Ronald] Reagan on Libyan cities," he said in comments carried by Libya's official news agency.

American fighters bombed Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986, attacks that Libya says killed 41 and injured 226.

The raids were ordered by Reagan after the Berlin disco bombing.

## IN THE STATES

# Calif. Supreme Court voids gay marriages

Molly McKay, right, reads a California Supreme Court ruling to gay couples in San Francisco on Thursday. The decision passed down by the court nullified gay marriages sanctioned by San Francisco. The court ruled Mayor Gavin Newsom overstepped his authority when he issued more than 4,000 same-sex marriage licenses earlier this year.

AP



## Ruling nullifies nearly 4,000 unions; court says S.F. mayor went too far

BY DAVID KRAVETS

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court on Thursday voided the nearly 4,000 same-sex marriages sanctioned in San Francisco this year and ruled unanimously that the city's mayor overstepped his authority by issuing marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples.

The court said the city violated the law when it issued the certificates, since both legislation and a voter-approved measure defined marriage as a union between a man and woman.

The justices separately decided with a 5-2 vote to nullify marriages performed between Feb. 12 and March 11, when the court halted the weddings. Their legality, Justice Joyce Kennard wrote, must wait until the court resolves the constitutionality of state laws that restrict marriages to opposite-sex couples.

The same-sex marriages had virtually no legal value, but powerful symbolism. Their nullification by the high court dismayed Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, the first same-sex couple to receive a marriage license in San Francisco.

"Del is 83 years old and I am 79," Lyon said. "After being together for more than 50 years, it is a terrible blow to have the rights and protections of marriage taken away from us. At our age, we do not have the luxury of time."

The court did not resolve whether the California Constitution would permit a same-sex marriage, ruling instead on the narrow issue of whether local officials could bypass state judicial and legislative branches.

Chief Justice Ronald George noted that Thursday's ruling doesn't address "the substantive legal rights of same sex couples. In actuality, the legal issue before us implicates the interest of all individuals in ensuring that public officials execute their official duties in a manner that respects the limits of the authorities granted to them as officeholders."

The justices agreed to resolve the legality of the weddings sanctioned by Mayor Gavin Newsom after emergency petitions were filed by a conservative group and the state's top law enforcement official, Attorney General Bill Lockyer.

San Francisco's gay weddings, which followed a landmark ruling by Massachusetts' top court allowing gay marriage — prompted President George W. Bush to push for changing the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriage, an effort that has become campaign fodder this election year.

When the justices agreed in March to hear the case, they said they would decide only whether Newsom overstepped his mayoral powers for now, but would entertain a constitutional challenge — that gays should be treated the same as heterosexual couples under the California Constitution — if such a lawsuit worked its way to the justices through the lower courts.

Gay and lesbian couples immediately acted on that invitation, suing in San Francisco County Superior Court alleging laws barring them from marrying were discriminatory.



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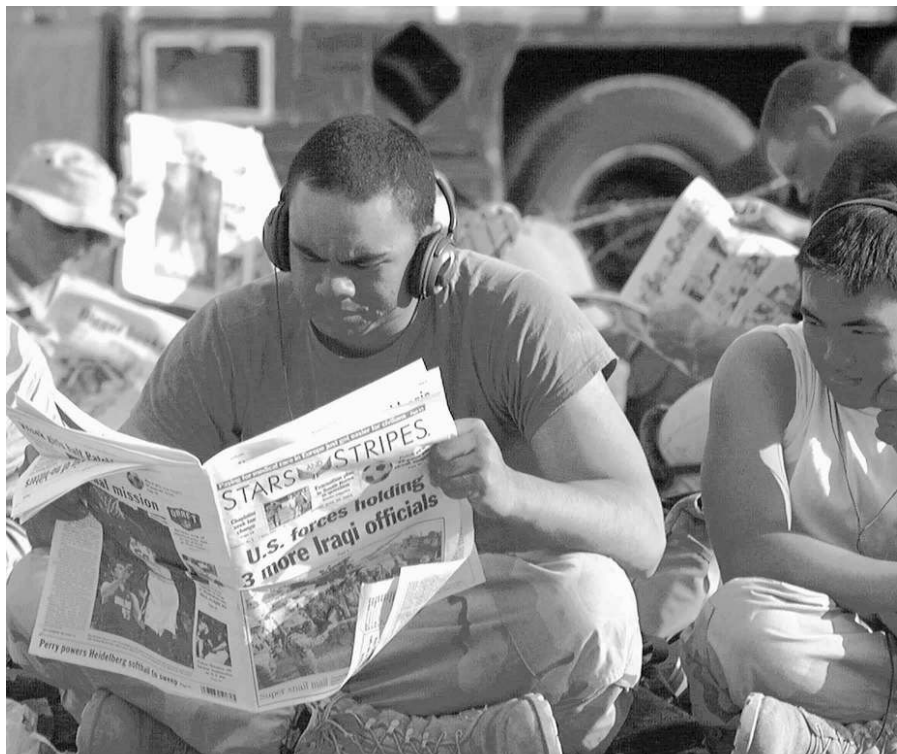
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KEN HELLER, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES/AP

Publix grocery store employees Jason Teach, left, and Jon Gerrity restock the shelves with drinking water Wednesday in Tampa, Fla., as customers stock up on supplies before the arrival of Tropical Storm Bonnie and Hurricane Charley.

# Florida tells Tampa-area residents to flee storms

BY MITCH STACY

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Hundreds of thousands of Tampa Bay-area residents were ordered Thursday to get out of the way of a rapidly strengthening Hurricane Charley, as its weaker sister, the disorganized Tropical Storm Bonnie, blustered ashore in the Flori-

da Panhandle.

Charley, which had pumped up to nearly 105 mph by early afternoon, was expected to hit the state's western coast Friday, possibly bringing heavy rain, swirling tornadoes and a storm surge of up to 12 feet to the Tampa Bay and Fort Myers areas.

The back-to-back storms — the first to menace the state so close together since 1906 — had prompted Gov. Jeb Bush to declare a state of emergency for all of Florida.

There were no reports of heavy rains or flooding in the already-soaked areas of the Panhandle after Bonnie's disorganized center came ashore with wind near 50 mph, and by noon Apalachicola looked as if nothing happened. The sun was shining and the surf was calming down.

Charley loomed, however, prompting evacuation orders along coastal areas from the Florida Keys to Tampa Bay.

Charley, which became a hurricane Wednesday before spinning by Jamaica, was heading past the Cayman Islands and expected to travel over western Cuba on its track toward Florida.

Hurricane watches or warnings were extended to include most of Florida's Gulf Coast, and

Charley was predicted to strike the Keys and the Florida Gulf Coast early Friday.

The evacuation from flood-prone areas of Pinellas County, which includes St. Petersburg, was the largest of its kind ever ordered there. It was to take effect at 6 p.m. Thursday. A similar order was issued for low-lying areas of neighboring Manatee County.

In the Keys, tourists had been told to leave Wednesday, and the order was expanded Thursday to include a mandatory evacuation of mobile homes in the lower Keys.

The lone road to the mainland, the Overseas Highway, was blocked by an accident for more than an hour Thursday morning, slowing the evacuation.

Residents along Florida's southwestern coast were preparing for havoc, boarding up homes with plywood and buying supplies such as water, canned food and batteries.

Sarasota resident Beth Ciombor was at a Home Depot loading two sheets of plywood onto her minivan's roof while her 2-year-old son watched.

"I'm on the verge of tears. It's so frightening," Ciombor said.

Associated Press writers Ken Thomas in Key West and David Royle in Apalachicola contributed to this report.

# Bush appeals to Nev. voters angered by nuclear waste dump

BY PETE YOST

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Facing political fallout from an unpopular decision to put a nuclear waste dump in the state, President Bush is rallying Republican support Thursday in Nevada in hopes of repeating his victory of four years ago.

Bush was campaigning before a friendly labor union, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, in Las Vegas, before heading to Santa Monica, Calif., to raise money for the Republican Party.

During a visit to Las Vegas earlier in the week, Democratic rival John Kerry tapped into voter anger over Bush's designation of Yucca Mountain as the nation's nuclear waste repository.

The issue has stirred up such strong feelings in Nevada that it is creating a close race between the president and the Massachusetts senator, according to recent polls.

Kerry said Bush broke the promise he made as a candidate in 2000 to ensure science and not politics determined his decision whether to ship waste to Yucca Mountain. Bush approved the site after winning the presidency, even though many scientific studies remained unfinished.

The Bush campaign has ac-

cused Kerry of switching sides on the issue. Kerry has voted in the Senate for some measures that had provisions to allow nuclear dumps there. But every time he has faced the simple choice of voting whether or not to send waste to Yucca Mountain, Kerry has voted against it.

Sig Rogich, an aide to former Presidents Reagan and Bush, said Kerry is "pinning his hopes" on the Yucca Mountain controversy because "there's nothing else" for the Democrat to run on in Nevada.

Adriana Martinez, chair of the Nevada Democratic Party, says Yucca Mountain is a recruiting poster.

"We get several e-mails a day from Republicans saying 'We'd like to volunteer,'" said Martinez. "We definitely have a good shot."

A recent federal appeals court ruling raised questions about whether the waste repository will be built, or at least meet its target of 2010 to begin operation. The court ruled that the federal plan for Yucca Mountain does not go far enough to protect people from potential radiation. Bush's energy secretary, Spencer Abraham, says the project is moving ahead. Environmental groups and lawyers for Nevada say the court's rejection of proposed radiation exposure limits could doom the project.

# Kerry's Vietnam actions heat up election debate

BY DAVID TARRANT

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — If the first casualty in war is the truth, as the old saying goes, the truth about John Kerry's military service is under fire from television and the bookstore shelves.

The group behind the attack, the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, has accused Kerry of everything from exaggerating claims to earn medals and Purple Hearts to having his own firm capture future campaign footage during his tour in Vietnam almost 35 years ago. Many date their anger at Kerry back to his antiwar activities after he returned from Vietnam, saying he slandered veterans at the time.

But the group has come under fierce counterattack by critics who say that the men featured in their ad did not serve directly with Kerry and that their charges are refuted by extensive military records and numerous eyewitnesses closer to the action than the group members.

The Kerry campaign even notes that some of the accusers were superior officers who gave the candidate glowing performance reviews.

An examination of the evidence

and interviews by The Dallas Morning News with several key witnesses on both sides reveals differing accounts of Kerry's war actions, even 35 years later.

Retired Rear Adm. Roy Hoffmann, who organized the group, says the members expected the reaction.

"We're not naive to think we're not going to get blasts," said Hoffmann, who was of Coastal Surveillance Force, which included the fleet of swift boats, was Kerry's superior officer.

Jim Rassmann, whose life was saved by Kerry, told CNN that the group's campaign is "very disingenuous," adding: "This is partisan motivation on the part of the part of his whole organization."

The escalating barrage continued Tuesday, with the release of a new book targeting Kerry's war record and accusing the Democratic presidential nominee of distorting his military service for political gain.

The book "Unfit for Command" is co-authored by longtime Kerry nemesis John O'Neill, a Houston lawyer who followed Kerry as commander of Petersen Base 94. The two squared off in the early 1970s in a famous TV debate about the war.

## Messages of Support

★ MY NAME IS ANGELINA FROM REDLANDS CA. MY FRIEND M. NOVELINO HE IS A MARINE IN KUWAIT I WOULD LIKE TO SEND MY LOVE WITH HIM BABY IF YOU READ THIS PLEASE COME HOME SAFE AND SOON I MISS YOU EVERYDAY i love you baby!!!!!!!!!!!!

★ I just want to take a few moments to thank you for defending our freedom. God Bless you and kick some serious butt and come home soon! Sincerely, Cheryl Austin, TX

Stars and Stripes

## Messages of Support

★ Dear Servicemen, You aren't here in the U.S. but if you were here, you would see flags and "support our troops" signs everywhere. On cars, in yards and with them come our prayers. Mary, Nevada, TX

★ Hello, I do not believe in war but would like to send you a hello message and say i am on your side and that you are doing a good job, fighting for your country!!! Peace and love!



## OPINION

# Environment suffers when 'security' is vague

By BRIAN SEEGE

In a post-Sept. 11 world, a strong focus on national security is inevitable and understandable. But in at least one area — the environment — the administration's attempt to bypass environmental regulations under the guise of national security raises serious questions about what information is being kept from public view, and the validity of the administration's justification for doing so.

One important example of this is the Department of Homeland Security's recently announced change in the way it will implement the National Environmental Policy Act. Often called the Magna Carta of our nation's environmental laws, NEPA directs federal agencies to prevent damage to the environment, provide information to the public and include citizens in the decision-making process. The Department of Homeland Security's proposed rules cast aside the principles of public participation and government transparency by allowing the withholding of large, ill-defined categories of information and even entire NEPA analyses when such information is determined to be "sensitive," "classified" or "protected." A broad array of agency activities will be exempted entirely from environmental analysis under the new rules as well.

Without doubt, Homeland Security faces a daunting task in balancing the public's right to know and its duty to provide for safety and security of the nation's citizens. And, as with every government agency, it also has the responsibility to ensure that its activities do not unduly harm the environment.

The difficulty of these tasks is further heightened by the fact that many of the activities and much of the infrastructure regulat-

ed by the department — including hazardous and toxic materials and storage, pipelines and transmission systems, power plants and biological research — are potential terror targets and potential environmental hazards. Although all can agree that truly sensitive information should be protected, who would want to know whether a hazardous chemical plant or gas pipeline was in their neighborhood or near their children's schools? For 30 years, NEPA has ensured that the public does know about such risks, and that citizens have a voice in proposals that affect their communities and their lives.

Unfortunately, by allowing for the withholding of information without providing for narrow and specific definitions of terms such as "sensitive" or "classified," Homeland Security's proposed rule threatens this vital democratic tradition. Without clear direction, government and industry will tend toward secrecy rather than openness, even in instances that do not implicate national security.

Unchecked, Homeland Security's proposal will allow activities with significant environmental impact to go forward without public review.

The Border Patrol, for example, has deployed thousands of agents in the fragile deserts of the southwestern United States in an effort to stem undocumented immigration. These agents have constructed roads, erected walls and fences, bulldozed desert vegetation and conducted off-road vehicle and low-elevation helicopter patrols in some of that area's most pristine wilderness. Moreover, the agency has now asked for unlimited off-road vehicle access within vast areas of public lands rich with wildlife and rare species, including designated wilderness



areas and national wildlife refuges. Even under existing NEPA rules, it has resisted meaningful public disclosure of these plans.

For the Border Patrol, Homeland Security's proposed rules will provide an easy avenue to withhold information that rightfully belongs in the public domain.

One of the most important lessons of the Cold War was that excessive secrecy does not improve our national security, but can pose major environmental risks, erode governmental accountability and destroy public trust. One example is the Rocky Flats nuclear plant near Denver, where major Cold War-era plutonium fires and hazardous ma-

terial leaks were not revealed to the public until nearly 30 years after the fact.

Thomas Jefferson said that "an informed citizenry is vital to the functioning of a democratic society." For the sake of both our environment and our democracy, our society must continue to err on the side of openness rather than secrecy, and transparency rather than unaccountability. The Department of Homeland Security's proposed environmental rules unfortunately fail to live up to these lofty but essential goals.

Brian Seeger is associate counsel for Defenders of Wildlife, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that is dedicated to the protection of all native wild animals and plants in their natural communities.

# American Catholics won't march to polls in lock step

The Knights of Columbus jumped to their feet and cheered wildly last week when President Bush affirmed his opposition to gay marriage and abortion at the Knights' international conference in Dallas. But don't think that sexual morality's the only driving force behind Catholic voters.

William McKenzie

In fact, don't assume there's a "Catholic vote," as some analysts suggest. There is a "Catholic force," says New Mexico Knight Levy Lebya. But there is not a monolithic Catholic view on politics. Here's why.

There are 65 million Catholics in the United States. They represent about 25 percent of the public. There's no way such a huge number of people are going to think alike. They clearly aren't going to be a united front when you consider there are Catholics here from Latin America, Eastern Europe and Ireland, to name just three places of origin.

What's more, there are observant Catholics along with nominal Catholics. Observant Catholics actively attend Mass, pay attention to the church's teachings and derive their identity from their Catholicism. Nominal Catholics are less likely to have such a strong identity.

The two also vote differently. Southern Methodist University professor Matthew Wilson studies Catholic voting patterns, and he recalled in an interview last week that 60 percent of observant Catholics voted for George W. Bush in 2000. Only 40 percent of nominal Catholics did.

The Knights I interviewed last week, from

New Mexico to Delaware to Louisiana to Kentucky, were concerned about personal and sexual morality. But they were quick to add education, the economy and health care to their priorities. Francisco Gomez of New Mexico captured their concerns when he spoke about the need to care for individuals who are left behind, such as the disabled.

This sentiment differs from what you see at many GOP gatherings. At the Knights' convention, there wasn't the hostility toward government that often permeates Republican meetings.

Maybe that's why President Bush emphasized in his speech that there's a role for government in caring for the poor. Perhaps he recognizes that he doesn't have Catholics in his hip pocket like he does many evangelicals.

"Catholics are a receptive audience for the president, not a captive one," says

SMU's Matt Wilson. "They are torn in two different directions."

There's a good reason for the tear. Catholics have decades of social teachings to carry. Unlike Protestants, they have statements from their church's hierarchy that carry weight. And not all of them are about abortion.

Look at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' statement on faithful citizenship. Its issues range from upholding the dignity of all life, recognizing God's preference for the poor, respecting the rights of workers and caring for God's creation. To put it in political terms, the bishops' list of priorities crosses partisan lines.

What's more, top Vatican official Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger announced last month that it's OK for Catholics to vote for a candidate who doesn't oppose abortion. If a voter feels a candidate's position on other issues out-

weighs his or her stand on abortion, Cardinal Ratzinger said, then the voter is free to support that person.

It's a shift from only a few months ago, when Catholics were debating whether to deny communion to a Catholic politician who favors the right to an abortion. My hunch is that it will help John Kerry with nominal Catholics. (For the record, none of the dozen Knights I interviewed supported denying pro-choice Catholic John Kerry communion. What struck me was their sense that we are all sinners.)

Catholic voters remain a fascinating force to watch. My hunch is that Bush and Kerry will split Catholic voters as evenly as Bush and Al Gore did in 2000. There are too many different parts of American Catholicism for one candidate to dominate.

William McKenzie is an editorial columnist for The Dallas Morning News.

## Mallard Fillmore

By BRUCE TINSLEY



## West Nile death

**CA** LONG BEACH — An 88-year-old woman has died from the West Nile virus, bringing California's death toll from the mosquito-borne illness to three. Another possible death was suspected.

The latest confirmed victim, a Long Beach woman whose name wasn't released, died Monday after spending nearly two weeks in the hospital, said Dr. Darryl Sexton, the city's health officer.

The state's two other confirmed West Nile deaths were in San Bernardino and Orange counties.

A spokeswoman from Kaiser Permanente hospital in Panorama City said preliminary tests showed a 91-year-old Northridge woman also died of the virus last week. Officials will conduct another blood test to confirm the results.

## Lottery litigation

**MA** BARNSTABLE — Two couples are fighting in court over ownership of a Massachusetts Lottery scratch ticket worth \$4 million.

According to testimony in the civil jury trial in Barnstable Superior Court, which began Monday, Julie Prive was a clerk at a Teesdale's market in Fall River in 2002, and began regularly collecting discarded losing scratch tickets. She entered these tickets in the Clean Fun Sweepstakes, the lottery's second-chance game designed to keep used tickets from becoming litter.

Prive said that while double-checking the used tickets, she found a winner worth \$4 million.

However, Raymond MacDonald and Monica Hertz claim the winning ticket — No. 93 in the book of 510 tickets — was among the 45 tickets they bought that day, May 17, according to their lawyer, Leigh-Ann Patterson.

## Murder before arson

**SC** COLUMBIA — Three children found dead in the ruins of their burned home had their throats slashed before one of their parents set the fire, authorities said Tuesday.

The father had recently been accused of molesting one of the children.

Sheriff's Capt. Glenn Williams said officials are awaiting test results and plan to investigate further, but added, "We do believe the person that's responsible died in the fire."

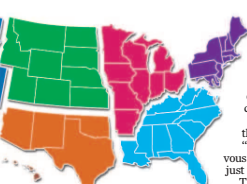
The bodies of Denia Meza, 14, Denise Meza, 8, and Jayro Meza, 5, were found in their charred beds after the fire was extinguished early Monday, said Williams.

Autopsies determined that Jose Denis Meza, 39, and Marbelly Zeldin Meza, 30, died from smoke inhalation and burns, but the children were dead before the fire was set, Williams said.

## Crappy tour

**IL** CHICAGO — A nice day on the Chicago River suddenly turned foul when black, smelly gunk landed on tourists.

"It can only presume that perhaps it's human waste. There was a very strong smell to it," said



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Anita Pedersen, spokeswoman for the tour boat company.

Witnesses on the Chicago's Little Lady architecture tour Sunday saw a large black tour bus dumping liquid waste as their boat cruised under the bridge, Pedersen said. More than 100 passengers were on the boat when the waste poured onto the upper, open deck.

## Fashion fakery

**TX** HOUSTON — Federal inspectors are working to stem the flow of knockoff Louis Vuitton and Coach handbags and other items coming from Houston, which lags behind only behind New York and Los Angeles in supplying counterfeit products to the rest of the nation.

Last year, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials seized fake goods valued at \$22 million in the Houston area alone.

Nearly all of these seizures led to Harwin, a retail area in the western part of the city where police in the past five years have made 70 arrests on counterfeiting charges, the Houston Chronicle reported Sunday.

## Pull me over

**VT** VERNON — It's not often that police get pulled over by a drunk driver.

It happened recently to Police Chief Ian McCollin, who was in his car when he spotted a driver looking befuddled at an intersection.

Thinking the man might be lost,



## Come sail away

A sail boat returns to its mooring on Lake Champlain in Shelburne, Vt., during a colorful sunset.

McCollin stopped on the side of the road.

The man pulled alongside of him, rolled down his window and announced he was looking for an officer to arrest him because he was drunk.

McCollin was so startled he called for backup. "I was just a little nervous about it," he said. "It just wasn't natural."

The man, Bryan S. Condo, 28, showed a non-driver's ID, and said his license had been criminally suspended. He said he already has been arrested once for driving drunk.

## Clown car theft

**IA** ALTOONA — A clown isn't smiling now that someone stole his clown car.

Delmer Jefferson drove the miniature, bright yellow tow truck in parades. But on July 5, someone stole the truck from the parking lot of the Za-Ga-Zig Shrine in Altoona. "I'm heartbroken," said Jefferson, whose been a clown for the Shriners for more than 30 years. "I can't replace it. And it's not worth anything to anyone else. It's a clown car."

Police Det. Jason Ferguson said the theft is being investigated.

"This thing is so unique," Ferguson said. "What would anyone do with it?"

## Fewer loggerhead turtles

**NC** EMERALD ISLE — About half the usual number of loggerhead turtles have nested between North Carolina and Florida this season, and scientists have no explanation for the drop.

"It's one of the lowest nesting years during the last 20," said Larry Crowder, a professor at Duke University Marine Laboratory in Beaufort and member of the Atlantic Loggerhead Sea Turtle Recovery team. "I don't think it's time to say, 'Oh my God, loggerheads are going extinct.' It's just a bad year. Obviously that can't go on too long."

Loggerheads have laid about 300 nests in North Carolina and more are expected to lay eggs through August, said Matthew Godfrey, biologist for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Sea Turtle Project.

## ATV map flap

**NH** CONCORD — Businesses that sell or rent snowmobiles and off-road vehicles are required to give customers copies of trail maps and relevant laws, but they've been waiting two years for the proper paperwork from the state Fish and Game Department.

Under a 2002 law, buyers are supposed to sign a disclosure statement saying they are aware of the rules and have received a map. But Fish and Game officials said they have not had time to create the forms because they've been busy with safety education classes for teens and adults who violate off-road vehicle laws.

Officials initially told the Concord Monitor that the earliest they expected to be in compliance was late 2005 or early 2006. But they later called the reporter to say the forms will be ready before this year's snowmobiling season.



Splashdown  
Ohio. Matt Sweet, 16, heads for the water after leaping off the high-dive at Brookside Pool in Ashland.



## Soft landing

A queen butterfly comes in for a landing on a lithonia flower in the Martha Jane Phillips Starr Conservatory in Kingdon City, Mo.





**Stick and move** Devin Vargas, right, works out with trainer Chuck Moreno at Glass City Gym in Toledo, Ohio.



**For the record** Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Gregg Greer, right, and Trooper Nelson map out the scene of a fatal accident along U.S. 69 near Bullard, Texas.



**Chowing down** Alejandro Torres, 10, eats a tomato from the produce stand where he and his older brother Jesus, 13, work in Kent, Wash.



**Line of fire** A wildfire burns near the Dryden Community Church in Dryden, Wash. This wildfire forced the evacuation of dozens of homes in the area.

## Twinkle lives on

**ME** BLUE HILL — A Twinkle standing the test of time on the edge of a blackboard may be a retiring science teacher's lasting legacy.

Roger Bennatti developed a reputation as an innovative teacher during his 31-year career at George Stevens Academy, using new methods to introduce students to subjects he loved. But the legend of the Twinkle looms over all.

Speckled with bits of mold, the bright yellow cake still adorns his lab. "We wanted to see what the shelf life of a Twinkle was," said Bennatti. "The idea was to see how long it would take to go bad."

The Twinkle stayed on top of the board through his career — joined in later years by a Fig Newton — and occasionally inspired new food experiments. Bennatti estimates the ever-yellow Twinkle is about 30 years old.

"It's rather brittle, but if you dusted it off, it's probably still edible," Bennatti said.

## Man wins dogfight

**TX** CORPUS CHRISTI — A meter reader attacked by two mixed-breed pit bulls Thursday fought them off, killing one of the animals by holding his knee to the dog's throat. The other was shot dead by police.

Scott Rousslang, 24, was treated and hospitalized with bandages covering more than 20 bite marks on his hands, arms and legs.

Rousslang was attacked when he reached a fence to read a water meter Thursday morning.

While one of the dogs bit into his limbs, he threw the other one to the ground and pressed a knee to its throat.

Officers arrived, shooting and killing the other dog.

## Fuel plant plan

**WY** RAWLINS — A Texas company is proposing a \$2.75 billion plant to process coal to diesel, electricity and other products.

Houston-based DKRW Energy is hoping to open a coal gasification and liquefaction facility on the Medicine Bow River Ranch by 2008.

The plan would use technology not yet in commercial use in the United States to create "ultra-clean" diesel fuel, other petroleum products and low-cost electricity to send over a new transmission line to western markets. DKRW partner Bob Kelly told the Carbon County Commission.

## Bank robbery a drag

**TN** COLLIERVILLE — A mustache man donning a green sun dress made off with \$4,000 from a bank, but he didn't make the best-dressed list.

Witnesses say the bank robber could have used a little fashion help. But his girly get-up helped him get away.

Police were searching Tuesday for the man who robbed a bank while wearing a woman's wig and dress.

"It was a leaf design, but muted," a woman who witnessed the holdup said of the robber's frock.

"He looked a mess," said another witness.

## Supply copter crashes

**WA** LEAVENWORTH — A helicopter crashed Wednesday while ferrying supplies to firefighters in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness in central Washington, killing the pilot.

The pilot, identified by the U.S. Forest Service as Mike Ward, 55, of Clayton, Ga., was the only person on board.

The cause of the crash, about 20 miles northwest of Leavenworth in the North Cascades, was not immediately known.

## Note to self: Rob bank

**KS** KANSAS CITY — If he's still keeping a to-do list, John Sarver could add some new entries: go to prison, and pay restitution.

Sarver, 48, pleaded guilty in April to robbing six banks, all in suburban Johnson County, in 2002 and 2003. The last took place just before Christmas, and Sarver was arrested Jan. 2.

When police searched Sarver's house, they found a list including a reminder to "rob bank."

Sarver was back in court Monday, drawing a prison sentence of 10 years and five months, plus two years under supervision after he gets out. U.S. District Judge Kathryn Vranas also ordered him to make restitution of \$13,834.

## Watching out for waste

**NM** SUNLAND PARK — The state Environment Department conducted an early-morning sweep Monday of a Sunland Park landfill that raised suspicions last week.

Monday's action at the Camino Real landfill uncovered two loads the department termed problematic. Inspectors said the loads contained hypodermic needles and other infectious waste from dairy, veterinary or medical operations.

Such infectious waste can pose health hazards, particularly to waste haulers and landfill workers, he said. Illegally disposing of medical waste can increase the risk of contracting blood-borne illnesses.

## Bear after brew

**MT** KALISPELL — A bear apparently humped over barrels at a busted brewery and filled up on fermented fruit waste.

It seems the bear gorged itself on the remnants of fermented fruit, part of the debris trapped on the country property of Bill Arkush, formerly doing business as Glacier Valley Brandy, officials said Tuesday.

Arkush said he arrived home Monday evening to find a pile of debris, equipment and barrels at the entrance to his driveway.

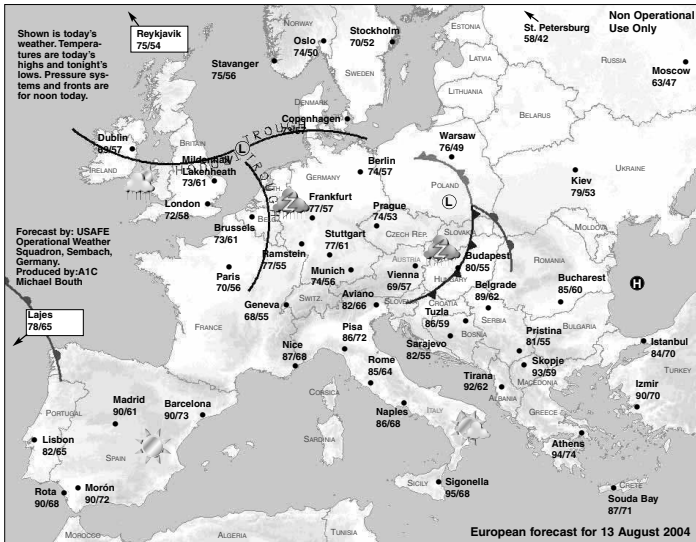
## Student center planned

**VT** BURLINGTON — University of Vermont trustees expect to approve a \$70 million student center and theater complex within the next month. The project would be the costliest in the school's 213-year history. The school plans to apply for permits this week.

If it wins city and state permission, construction would begin next spring. Completion is slated for two years later.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press





# EUROPEAN FORECAST

**Benelux:** Mostly cloudy with rain-showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 70s and lows in the lower 60s.

**Ireland:** Mostly cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the upper 60s to lower 70s and lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

**Croatia and Bosnia:** Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower to mid-80s and lows in the mid to upper 60s.

**France:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s and lows in the mid-50s to the north. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the upper 60s in the south.

**Northern Germany:** Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid to upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s.

**Southern Germany:** Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid to upper 70s and lows in the mid-50s to lower 60s.

**Hungary:** Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid-80s and lows in the mid-50s.

**Northern Italy:** Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the lower to mid-80s and lows in the mid-60s to lower 70s.

**Southern Italy:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid-80s to mid-90s and lows in the mid-50s to lower 60s.

**Kosovo:** Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s and lows in the mid-50s.

**Norway:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid-70s and lows in the lower to mid-50s.

**Portugal, Spain:** Sunny. Highs in the lower 80s on the west coast, lower 90s elsewhere. Highs in the lower 70s in the south and on the east coast, 80s elsewhere.

**Turkey:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid-80s on the north coast and inland, lower 90s elsewhere. Lows in the upper 50s inland, 70s elsewhere.

European forecast for 13 August 2004



## AFRICA

Cape Town	HI	LO	Mogadishu	HI	LO
Dakar	71	60	Nairobi	78	62
Port Louis	80	70	Rabat	81	67
Khartoum	83	67	Tripoli	106	75

## THE WORLD

Amsterdam	HI	LO	Manila	HI	LO
Batavia	71	60	Mexico City	74	53
Beijing	88	75	Montreal	74	53
Buenos Aires	88	75	Riyadh	113	83
Bombay	84	65	Sao Paulo	84	71
Calcutta	84	65	Sydney	69	52
Hong Kong	84	65	Tokyo	92	78
London	82	65			

## MIDEAST

Incirlik	91/77	Tai Aviv	91/73	Cairo	94/75
Baghdad	110/81	Kuwait City	117/84	Dhahran	113/84
Tehran	101/76	Zahedan	104/71	Dubai	111/80
Ashgabat	109/71	Mazar-e-Sharif	108/67	Kabul	99/62
Islamabad	95/76	New Delhi	91/78	Kandahar	104/75
Hyderabad	85/71	Bombay	84/77		

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at <https://ows.semback.af.mil>

## SUN & MOON

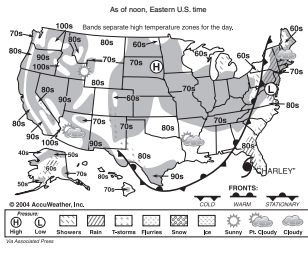
	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (London)	0538	0539
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	0613	0614
Sunset (London)	2024	2024
Sunset (Frankfurt)	2047	2046

New moon 06/16 First-crt 06/23 Full moon 06/30 Last-crt 06/06

## TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Abilene, Tex.	HI	LO	Oak	Cleveland	70	54	Oak	Hartford	75	60	Rain	New Orleans	83	67	C	San Antonio	87	65	PCity
Albany, N.Y.	70	52	Chandler	Columbia Springs	74	53	PCity	Henderson Spgld	75	60	Rain	New York City	76	68	PCity	San Diego	75	60	PCity
Albany, N.Y.	70	52	Chandler	Columbus, Ohio	75	60	PCity	Hickory	75	60	PCity	Normal, Ill.	75	60	PCity	San Francisco	75	60	PCity
Albany, N.Y.	70	52	Chandler	Columbia, S.C.	74	53	PCity	Hindu	80	63	PCity	Normal, Ill.	75	60	PCity	San Jose	74	59	PCity
Albany, N.Y.	70	52	Chandler	Columbus, Ohio	75	60	PCity	Hindu	80	63	PCity	Normal, Ill.	75	60	PCity	San Jose	74	59	PCity
Albany, N.Y.	70	52	Chandler	Columbus, Ohio	75	60	PCity	Hindu	80	63	PCity	Normal, Ill.	75	60	PCity	San Jose	74	59	PCity
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Albany, N.Y.	70	52	Chandler	Columbus, Ohio	75	60	PCity	Hindu	80	63	PCity	Normal, Ill.	75	60	PCity	San Jose	74	59	PCity
Albany, N.Y.	70	52	Chandler	Columbus, Ohio	75	60	PCity	Hindu	80	63	PCity	Normal, Ill.	75	60	PCity	San Jose	74	59	PCity
Albany, N.Y.	70	52	Chandler	Columbus, Ohio	75	60	PCity	Hindu	80	63	PCity	Normal, Ill.	75	60	PCity	San Jose	74	59	PCity
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Albany, N.Y.	70	52	Chandler	Columbus, Ohio	75	60	PCity	Hindu	80	63	PCity	Normal, Ill.	75	60	PCity	San Jose	74	59	PCity
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## THE UNITED STATES TODAY



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STARS & STRIPES



## FACES 'N' PLACES

# the teen queen

## Glass slipper fits perfectly for actress-singer Hilary Duff in role as youth-market idol

BY RICHARD HARRINGTON

The Washington Post

Hilary Duff just can't keep a personal diary.

"I've tried before and it's lasted about four days," says the 16-year-old singer-actress. "I do keep one on my Web site so all my fans can see what's going on with me, but you know what? When you're busy, it's really hard!"

Duff's entry dated May 24 was delineated Toronto, where Duff was filming the romantic comedy "The Perfect Man," in which she plays matchmaker for mom Heather Locklear.

This summer Duff starred in "A Cinderella Story," a contemporary twist on the classic fairy tale, with a soundtrack featuring four of her songs. Duff embarked on a 33-city concert tour. This month, she'll complete her as-yet-untitled sophomore album, set for release Sept. 28 — her 17th birthday. Duff's debut album, "Metamorphosis," went triple platinum, outselling Britney Spears' and Madonna's last albums combined. October sees the release of another film, "Raise Your Voice."

Maybe it's a good thing she doesn't keep a diary. Who'd believe such fantasies?

"I feel lucky, I really do," says Duff, calling from Los Angeles recently. "Everything is so crazy for me, and so surreal — I feel like such a normal girl in this crazy whirlwind world. Sometimes I do feel like it's a fantasy and a fairy tale."

Four years ago, it felt more like a bad dream about to be deferred by a girl from Texas who'd been an aspiring ballerina at 6, started doing ads and commercials at 8, and moved to Los Angeles at 10 with her mother, Susan, and sister Haylie, then 12. Father Bob stayed in Houston, where he owned a number of convenience stores, while the sisters studied acting, auditioned like crazy, and got rejected early and often.

At 12, she was ready to give up. But there was one more call. Duff told her mom she wasn't going up for the role.

"But they sent a plane ticket to come back and audition for it, and I said OK, though I didn't really care about the audition. I went in and I guess I did a good job."

Indeed, at 12, Duff won the title role in "Lizzie McGuire," a charming and innovative series about the awkward middle school years that mixed live action, stills, home movies and animations. Perky, polite, vulnerable and in no great hurry to grow up, Lizzie had an animated alter ego to express her innermost thoughts.

Parents liked the show; more importantly, kids identified with Lizzie. It was the Disney Channel's highest-rated show after its 2001 debut, with 2 million viewers per episode — mostly "teens," 8- to 14-year-olds,

a newly defined, highly desired demographic. There are some 25 million of them with an estimated buying and influencing power (money spent directly and money they get their parents to spend) of \$500 billion annually.

And Hilary, with her sweet smile and golden blond hair, suddenly became the "teen queen," with a show that was getting 375,000 e-mails a week.

In her two years on the show, Lizzie McGuire never sang, though Hilary did, making her debut with "I Can't Wait" on the series' platinum soundtrack album. She didn't have to wait long. "The Lizzie McGuire Movie," in which Lizzie graduates from middle school and goes to Italy on a class trip, found a way for her to sing: seemed she was a dead ring for the distaff half of a popular Italian pop duo, gone missing on the eve of a globally televised awards show — Lizzie McGuire to the rescue! "Metamorphosis" proved the musical equivalent of Lizzie McGuire's coming-of-age, a collection of bright, accessible and age-appropriate songs. The first single, the Matrix-written and -produced "So Yesterday," went to No. 1. The album soon followed.

Though Duff missed the drama of high school, she's certainly finding it in the nation's tabloids. There are the widely reported tiffs with Avril Lavigne and Lindsay Lohan (the former over a perceived slight, which Duff apologized for, the latter over mutual boyfriend Aaron Carter), more recently, rumors of romance with 25-year-old Joel Madden, lead singer of Good Charlotte.

On a happier note, Duff recently adorned the cover of Seventeen, sporting a demure, dove-gray jacket over a white top. It's a good look for a role model, which unlike some of her peers, Duff doesn't seem to have a problem being.

"I think that I'm pretty straightforward and I'm an honest person, and if people look up to that because I'm just being myself, then that's cool," she says. "I don't necessarily feel like I have to break away or get out of this type of genre that people have put me in. I do think that I'm growing and my music, especially on this second album that's coming out, is more mature, but not so mature that it's beyond that younger audience, because I do know that I have that younger audience. Same with the movie parts that I take."

## Clapton on the RockWalk

Grammy winner Eric Clapton has been inducted into the Los Angeles RockWalk — established in 1985 to honor musicians who have made a significant contribution to the history of music — in a private ceremony.

Clapton, 59, received a commemorative plaque and had imprints of his hands and signature installed in marble on Sunset Boulevard on Monday.

He recently completed a North American concert tour to promote his latest CD, "Me and Mr. Johnson."

Previous inductees include The Ramones, B.B. King, Chuck Berry, Janis Joplin and Aerosmith.

## Janet Jackson returns to television

Janet Jackson will guest-star as herself in an upcoming episode of the NBC sitcom "Will & Grace."

The episode will air on Sept. 23, Jackson told syndicated entertainment TV show "Access Hollywood" in an interview that aired Monday.

Her last prime-time role was as Cleo Hewitt on NBC's "Fame" (1984-85). She also appeared in the TV shows "Diff'rent Strokes" and "Good Times."

When asked about the upcoming "Will & Grace" episode, Jackson said it involves Sean Hayes' character, Jack McFarland, "trying out as a dancer."

"There's a little bit of a routine and they go on to do their thing from there," she said in excerpts of the interview posted on the "Access Hollywood" Web site. "It's so funny. I have to catch myself because I'm cranking up rehearsals. It's just funny to watch them. It's hilarious."

Jackson's breast-baring performance during the half-time show at this year's Super Bowl, seen by millions of TV viewers, created an uproar.

## Dean not quite ready for prime time

Former Vermont Gov. and presidential candidate Howard Dean says he's not ready to change careers from political activist to talk-show host.

Dean, whose Dean for America presidential campaign has morphed into the Democracy for America political action group, subbed for the host of CNBC's "Today" (At With Tina Brown) Sunday night.

His guests included comedian Jon Stewart of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show." They discussed politics and the media.

Over the last several months, Dean has reportedly been in talks to host his own show. But he told Stewart he's not yet ready to start a new career.

## Seriously, it's Bill Cosby

When comedian Bill Cosby called Holyoke, Mass., Police Chief Anthony Scott to praise his battle against street crime, the chief thought it was a joke.

Scott told The Republican in Springfield recently that it took Cosby about a minute to convince him of his identity. "I was floored," Scott said.

Cosby's phone call came as the 67-year-old entertainer, who has a home in the rural western Massachusetts town of Shelburne, has taken a personal interest in helping to combat crime in the region's cities.

He met last week with a mother in neighboring Springfield whose 19-year-old twins were killed in separate shootings. Cosby promised to help her organize a community rally against street violence.

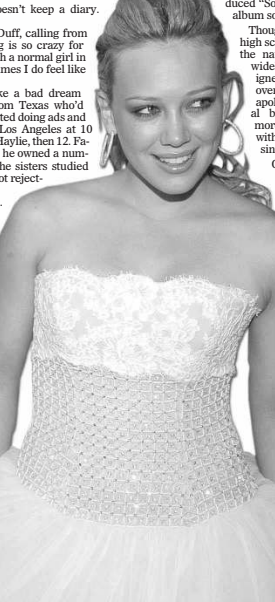
Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Clapton



Jackson



Dean



Cosby



# Horoscope

With Mercury transiting retrograde, an element of the unpredictable influences events — mostly due to communication that somehow goes away in another week, such mishaps will cease to be amusing or cute, so make sure you take steps not to repeat the same mistake twice. The evening is especially lively with both the moon and sun in Leo.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**AUGUST 13.** You're strong enough to let go. It's a year when you surrender your power to the universe and watch it manifest around you. If you're involved in a committed relationship, things get even deeper before mid-September. If single, you'll be having too much fun playing the field to worry about a ring. Love signs are Sagittarius and Aquarius.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Love makes the world feel inspiring. You're hopeful even when others give up, which is the key to your success. Though you push yourself to finish what you start, you still may need this weekend, so don't plan too much.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Ideas turn to gold. But you must do the groundwork in order to reap benefits. Build the mystery in a love relationship. If your priorities are straight, you won't be discarding friendship for passion.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Make contact, sell, persuade, and learn what you need to get what you want. It's a day of extraordinary energy and possibility. Save some energy for family tonight. Love is your ace, take care of it with thoughtful acts.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Find ways to fit travel into your budget.

Creative abilities are enhanced when you're aware of different cultures. Also, if you haven't been reading, this is the perfect time to start. Your imagination needs stimulation.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Though it's a lucky day in many ways, you

must stay aware. In unfamiliar territory, you are easily disoriented — pay attention to the little things, like where you parked the car and what you did with your house key.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** A person who has true character is a person who challenges him- or herself even in the midst of complacent people — in other words, a person like you. Keep it up. Tonight, you are under romantic fire.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Just because someone is in charge, doesn't make that person right. Question authority. Financial decisions have far-reaching implications. Don't fudge on budget resolutions, though you want to be impressive to dates.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Accept yourself as you are. Write down your frustrations, and burn them for luck, releasing resentments. You are unusually impressive in the evening, but there's no need to take things personally.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

An old flame dreams of getting you back. Show some emotional muscle tone and real wisdom. At the first sign that someone is not what you want in your life, turn around and run in the opposite direction.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Let your personality shine as it opens doors previously closed. Exploring makes your heart sing, and the wider the terrain, the more you love it. Saying no to someone tonight takes courage, but it is the right thing to do.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You are influential and savvy. Changes at work have you worried, but you will not be affected. Socialize with business associates, though you don't see the benefit yet. Return all telephone calls, even to telemarketers.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

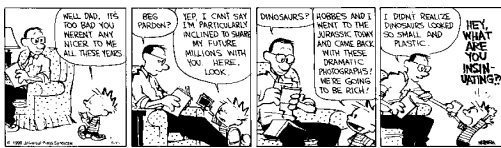
Forget about your love life for a few hours, and it will magically improve. When loved ones know that you're OK on your own, they get worried. Artists need encouragement to take steps to move into a more satisfying career.

Creators Syndicate

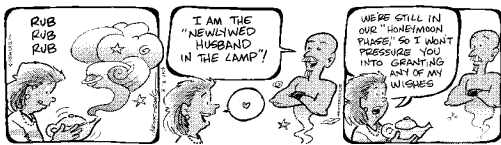
Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



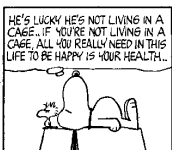
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



## Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



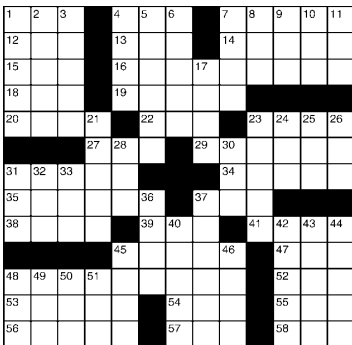
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Journey segment
- 4 Discordance
- 7 Work drough
- 12 Commotion
- 13 "— Lazy River"
- 14 Goosebump-inducing
- 15 Instance of wordplay
- 16 P.E. game
- 18 Expert
- 19 1999 newsmaking youngster
- 20 Goose egg
- 22 Despondent
- 23 Skewer
- 27 Menagerie
- 29 Wide-sleeved robe
- 31 Primary study
- 34 Autumnal quaff
- 35 Valencia, for one
- 37 Comprehend
- 38 Actress
- 39 Norm
- 41 Fair share
- 45 Heterogeneous
- 47 Have misgivings about
- 48 Santa Fe Trail town
- 52 Raw rock
- 53 Perpendicular, at sea
- 54 Indivisible
- 55 Central
- 56 Wild dog
- 57 Frenzied
- 58 Billboards

## Down

- 1 South American capital
- 2 Bring out
- 3 Lost cause
- 4 Hardy's "— the Obscure"
- 5 Moon-mission program
- 6 FCC concern
- 7 Astute
- 8 Kan. neighbor
- 9 Geological time
- 10 Have a bug
- 11 Benicio — Toro
- 17 Stare stupidly
- 21 Endangered layer
- 23 Common surname
- 24 Spacecraft compartment
- 25 Resembling (Suff.)
- 26 Anderson's "High —"
- 28 Assoc.
- 30 Lemieux milieu
- 31 Unruly bunch
- 32 Beattitudes verb
- 33 Poke
- 36 Grand-scale tale
- 37 — Green (elopers' mecca)
- 40 Truth held to be self-evident
- 42 Bakery lure
- 43 Sensational
- 44 Nourishes
- 45 Note from the boss
- 46 Went blonde
- 48 1989 Jack Lemmon movie
- 49 29-Across accessory
- 50 Lair
- 51 Prevent from talking

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 8-13

## CRYPTOQUIP

P E N Q R Q P S L J N H R Z S K Z C Q  
P I P C . K R Z I P C K Z S L Z C  
Q P F Q , " X Z C F Q B C C F , J Z

L B S ' K Q Z C X Z E B B L R Z C Z ."  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO MANY  
MOTORISTS, RETRIBUTION MAY RIGHTFULLY  
BE THOUGHT OF AS A TOOT FOR A TOOT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals R



# RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

## Battle on the bubble



Nextel Cup title contenders Kevin Harvick, left, and Ryan Newman race side by side earlier this year.

Courtesy of NASCAR

## Drivers jockeying for position with five races to go

BY JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. Dale Jarrett was an outspoken critic of NASCAR's new points system when he first heard about it.

Now that's he's still eligible to win the championship, he's completely changed his tune.

"I think it has the potential to be very exciting," Jarrett said. "Whether we make the top 10 or not, I think we need to get this a shot and see what happens with it."

Jarrett is one of a handful of drivers scrambling to put together a late charge and break into the top 10 in the standings, where they'll be eligible to race for the Nextel Cup title.

There was no change in the top 10 following Sunday's race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. But when Ryan Newman wrecked five laps from the end, it dropped him to a 31st-place finish and put at least five drivers on the bubble to make the "Chase for the Cup."

Newman holds just a 31-point advantage over 11th-place Kasey Kahne, and Jeremy Mayfield is one point behind Kahne.

Jarrett is just 55 points out of 10th, and Jamie McMurray and Mark Martin are well within striking distance.

The drivers have five events left to move their way up into the standings. The NASCAR will reset the field, separating first from 10th in five-point increments. The 10 drivers will then race for the championship over the final 10 events of the season.

The stretch run begins with Sunday's road race at Watkins Glen, N.Y.

One of just two road courses on the Nextel Cup circuit, the windy race track could be a make-or-break event for the challengers. McMurray, who finished second in the other road race this season, is hopeful a strong finish at Watkins Glen can loft him into contention.

"We gained some ground on the top 10 in points after our seventh-place finish in Indy, but we're going to need some of those guys to have some bad luck in the next stretch of races in order to gain enough points to make it into the top 10," he said.

Heavily criticized since it was announced by NASCAR, the new points system has drastically changed the landscape of the Nextel Cup championship.

A year ago, Matt Kenseth used consistent

cy — he was excellent at finishing somewhere around seventh every week — and cautiously stockpiling enough points to move or less have the title locked up months before the season ended.

Tired of dull championship hunts, NASCAR shook it up this season, and now all bets are off.

Suddenly, drivers who have never had a realistic shot at taking the title are right there.

Take Mayfield, for instance. In seven seasons, his highest finish in the standings was seventh in 1998. Now, if he can crack the top 10, a driver with three career victories can race for the championship. Any other season, he would have long been eliminated from contention.

Then there's Elliott Sadler. Currently sixth in the standings, he's having a career year that has him solidly in the hunt and a clear contender for the title. His previous best was 20th in 2001.

But being so close might be nerve-racking for Sadler.

"I'm probably the worst points racer there is," he said. "I really pay attention to it a lot. Every Sunday night, Monday morning after the race, I know exactly how many I'm behind the next guy, how many

positions I need to finish in front of him. I do all the math."

In a way, the new system is changing the way teams are currently competing.

Points leader Jimmie Johnson has admitted his Hendrick Motorsports team has taken a few gambles this season, so certain they are locked into the chase that he can afford to try aggressive new setups.

Others have been more conservative, while the middle-of-the-pack drivers have just been flying under the radar. As Sadler pointed out, so much attention has been placed on Johnson and Dale Earnhardt Jr. this year, the rest of the challengers have been left alone.

"You all are so busy talking about the same two cars all year long that you're kind of hanging out, racing and doing what we need to do," he told reporters.

But as it gets into crunch time, those hovering around the cutoff can't take any chances.

Newman, who won a series-high eight races last season but finished sixth in the standings, said he won't change his approach as he clings to the 10th and final spot.

"If we hold our own, we'll be just fine," he said. "If we focus on what's ahead of us, we won't have to worry about what's behind us."

### NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

#### Race 22: Sirius at The Glen, D. a.m. Monday (ld), AFN-Sports.

**Last race:** Jeff Gordon won the Brickyard 400 to become the fourth driver to record four wins at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, joining four-time Indy 500 winners A.J. Foyt, Al Unser Sr. and Rick Mears.

**Last year:** Robby Gordon stretched his fuel over the final 39 laps and completed a sweep of the 2003 road-course races with a victory at Watkins Glen.

#### DRIVERS TO WATCH

**Dale Jarrett** finished second at last year's Indy 500 and is in the title chase with the late crash last week, he can't afford a late charge. Although he's never won a Nextel Cup race, he's going to contend. He's finished in the top 10 in his last five Nextel Cup races here.

**Ryan Newman** won the title last season but finished sixth in the standings. He's going to contend. He's finished in the top 10 in his last five Nextel Cup races here.

**Kyle Petty** will make his 700th race start Sunday, the ninth driver in Cup history to reach that mark. Petty, who hasn't won since 1995, will be racing for the first time with interim crew chief Garth Finken.

**Nextel Cup qualifying record**  
Ricky Rudd, 1:01.068 mph, 200.

**Nextel Cup race record**  
Mark Martin, 1:03.03 mph, Aug. 13, 1995.

**JEFF GORDON** has finished fifth or better in seven of his last eight races, including three wins. Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished his first race since being burned in a sports car crash July 18 last week, but placed 27th after cutting a tire cut on the final lap. — Jimmie Johnson has failed to finish three races this season after having engine trouble at Indianapolis.

### BUSCH SERIES

**Last race:** Kyle Busch passed up a first-place shot for lines, then helped Johnny Sauter in the final laps to win the Kroger 200 at Indianapolis Raceway Park for his fourth victory of the season.

**Next race:** Cabela's 250, Aug. 21, Brooklyn, Mich.

### INDY RACING

**Last race:** Bettenhausen Indy 300 at Satoru in Indy. (Type-delayed, 4 a.m. Sunday, AFN-Sports).

**Last year:** Tony Stewart edged Tony Kanaan by 0.076 seconds to win the Michigan Indy 400. Kanaan led for 10 laps before being passed by Ricci, whose average finish of 19.1 set a new mark as the fourth-fastest in series history.

**Last year:** Sam Hornish Jr. set record for average speed and career win with race at the Bellefonte Casino Indy 200, averaging 199.8 mph, shattering the series speed record of 189.81 set by Al Unser Sr. in 1985.

**Last year:** Al Unser Sr. won the season set by Al Unser Sr. the previous month.

### CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

**This week:** Toyota Tundra 200 at Gladsville, Tenn. (Type-delayed, 4 a.m. Sunday, AFN-Sports).

**Last year:** Carl Edwards won his second straight race by cutting in the Federated Auto Parts 200 at Nashville Speedway. Edwards was forced to the rear of the 33-track field at the start because of an engine change.

### CHAMP CAR

**This week:** Grand Prix of Denver. **Last race:** Alex Taglianini, who didn't participate in the first round of qualifying after a practice crash, passed Rodolfo Gonzalez to win the first round of the Grand Prix of Road America for his first victory in 85 races.

**Last year:** Bruno Junqueira started fourth and won with his second straight Grand Prix of Denver. Junqueira lost the lead for 30 laps and brushed the wall with 16 laps to go, but overtook Rodolfo Gonzalez in the pit midway through the race and led the final 44 laps.

### FORMULA ONE

**This week:** Hungarian Grand Prix at Budapest.

**Last year:** Michael Schumacher matched his own record of 11 victories in a season by winning the German Grand Prix on Aug. 25. Schumacher has won six straight overall to tie the mark set in 1992 by Alberto Ascari.

**Last year:** Spain's Fernando Alonso led from the start in the Hungarian Grand Prix and became the youngest winner of a Formula One race at age 22. Alonso won while lapping Michael Schumacher.







# Millar makes bid for a lineup spot

## Boston star follows gripe session with four hits, four RBIs vs. Rays

The Associated Press

**BOSTON** — The way Kevin Millar has been hitting, he should see his name on Boston's lineup card every game.

After publicly venting his frustration over the weekend about Red Sox manager Terry Francona's ever-changing batting order, Millar had four hits and four RBIs to lead Boston to a 14-1 victory over Tampa Bay on Wednesday night.

"I made a mistake" and had a "great" talk with Francona, Millar said. "The people in this clubhouse know that I'm not selfish. I want to contribute and help this team win."

Millar became frustrated Saturday when he was a late addition to the lineup, filling in for ailing Manny Ramirez.

On Wednesday at Fenway Park, Millar went 4-for-4 with two singles, a double and a three-run homer, tying his career high of four hits, in just five innings.

A career .290 hitter, Millar is 31-for-66 (.470) with seven homers and 21 RBIs in his last 19 games to increase his batting average from .269 to .306. He had just five homers and 25 RBIs in his first 85 games.

"It's been a tough year, mentally, but I'll be stronger," Millar said.

Boston scored five runs apiece in the second and third innings for a 1-1 lead. Jason Varitek drove in four runs with two doubles and Johnny Damon reached base in each of the first four innings on two singles, a double and a walk.

Damon had two RBIs and David Ortiz also drove in two runs, giving him 100 for the second straight season and leaving him one short of his career high.

"The clubs are good that we're playing," Tampa Bay manager Lou Piniella said. "We have young pitching and they have veteran hitters. That's a bad combination."

Making his first career appearance against Boston, Devon Brazelton (4-4) had the worst outing of his 13 starts this season, allowing eight runs — seven earned — in 1 1/2 innings.

Derek Lowe (10-4) again benefited from an offensive outburst by Boston, which had 15 hits in winning for the fourth time in five games. The Red Sox have scored nine or more runs in eight of Lowe's victories.

Lowe left with a blister on his pitching thumb with two outs in the sixth and the score 13-3. He allowed nine hits with four strikeouts and one walk.

**Yankees 4, Rangers 2:** Derek Jeter hit a solo homer and Tanyon Sturtz pitched five innings in a spot start for visiting New York.

Sturtz (4-2), moved into the rotation because Javier Vazquez has pink eye, allowed two runs on three hits in the first inning, but gave up just two more hits.

Mariano Rivera got three outs for his 39th save.

**Angels 4, Orioles 2:** Vladimir Guerrero's homer in the sixth tied it and Garret Anderson's two-run single in the seventh gave the host Angels the lead, helping Anaheim snap Baltimore's season-high eight-game winning streak.

**Tigers 11, Athletics 3:** Dmitri Young hit a three-run homer, Wil-



**Baltimore's David Newhan singles in a run in the fifth inning Wednesday night against the Anaheim Angels. Newhan had three hits in the game but the Angels beat the Orioles 4-2, ending Baltimore's winning streak at eight games.**

fredo Ledezma (2-0) pitched 5 1/2 innings to earn his first victory as a starter this season and Detroit beat the host Athletics.

**Indians 3, Blue Jays 2:** C.C. Sabathia (9-6) pitched seven innings and rookie Grady Sizemore drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the sixth, leading the host Indians over Toronto.

**Royals 4, White Sox 2:** Darrell May (9-12) didn't allow a hit until two outs in the sixth, Mike Sweeney hit a two-run homer and visiting Kansas City ended a five-game losing streak.

Chicago committed three errors in losing for the 13th time in 17 games.

**Mariners 4, Twins 3:** Pinch runner Willie Bloomquist advanced to second on Juan Rincon's error, then stole third and scored when catcher Henry Blanco's throw appeared to ricochet off his helmet toward the third-base dugout to give the Mariners a victory in Seattle.

# Wolf's home run binges keys Phils

The Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA** — Randy Wolf gave Philadelphia exactly what it needed: a strong effort on the mound and some pop in a listless lineup.

Wolf homered twice, giving him three this season, and three seven innings to lead the Phillies to a 15-4 victory over the Colorado Rockies on Wednesday night.

"It's nice to absorb it and enjoy it, because I know if it will ever happen again," Wolf said.

Wolf, who has four career homers, went 3-for-3 and scored three runs in becoming the first major league pitcher to homer twice in a game since the Phillies' Robert Person on June 2, 2002, against Montreal.

Wolf (5-7) won for only the third time since June 1, allowing four runs, striking out six and walking none in seven innings. It was an encouraging performance for Wolf, who pitched seven innings for only the third time in 15 starts, during which he was 3-6 with six no-decisions.

Jim Thome also homered twice, Chase Utley hit a three-run homer and Jimmy Rollins added a two-run shot for the Phillies, who lost the first two games of the series to Colorado.

Wolf hit a solo shot to right in the third off Jason Jennings (10-10) and another in the sixth off Adam Bernero that just cleared the right-field wall. He is hitting .304 (.12-for-39).

"Wolf's a decent hitter," Jennings said. "He has an idea what he's doing up there."

**Dodgers 11, Reds 1:** Jose Hernandez hit a bases-loaded triple and a two-run homer and Shawn Green added a three-run shot for the visiting Dodgers. The NL West leaders won for the seventh time in nine games.

**Cardinals 1, Marlins 0:** Jeff Suppan (10-6) allowed just two hits in eight-plus innings, Edgar



**Randy Wolf acknowledges an ovation after hitting his second home run against Colorado.**

Renteria singled home the only run and the visiting Cardinals extended their winning streak to seven games.

**Braves 10, Brewers 3:** Adam LaRoche had his first career two-homer game and J.D. Drew added a solo shot. Charles Thomas had two hits for the Braves, including a two-run single after a brief power outage in the fifth.

**Pirates 8, Giants 6 (11):** Craig Wilson hit a two-run homer in the 11th off Dustin Hermanson (4-5) and the host Pirates won their fourth straight.

**Expos 7, Diamondbacks 3:** Brian Schneider's grand slam capped a six-run fourth inning and helped extend visiting Arizona's losing streak to six.

**Astros 5, Mets 4 (10):** Brad Ausmus' RBI single in the 10th ended a game played through a steady rain until a 55-minute delay in the sixth.

**Cubs 5, Padres 1:** Carlos Zambrano (11-6) threw eight innings for host Chicago in his return from a five-game suspension.

# Yet again, injury stops Griffey

By TERRY KINNEY

The Associated Press

**CINCINNATI** — Ken Griffey Jr. will miss the rest of the season because of a torn right hamstring, the latest setback in a long line of injuries for Cincinnati's All-Star outfielder.

Team medical director Dr. Timothy Kremenek said an MRI exam showed Griffey ruptured his right hamstring last week in San Francisco. He will have surgery Monday.

Griffey, who hit his 500th career home run earlier this season, could be fully recovered in time for spring training, Kremenek said.

The Reds said Griffey was hurt while making a sliding catch in right field. He had moved over

from his usual spot in center field for the game, his first action in nearly four weeks since tearing his hamstring in Milwaukee.

"He had a complete rupture of the hamstring off the bone," Kremenek said. "He knew it wasn't right, and that's why he hadn't really played since he injured it in San Francisco."

"He didn't come back (to Cincinnati) earlier because I think he was hoping he would be able to get over this and pinch hit or he'd be able to do something to help the team."

The injury is similar to one Griffey had on his left side three years ago. But that one was a partial tear that healed without surgery, Kremenek said.

"Knowing he's going to be out

for the year, it's a really big blow," Reds coach Danny Graves said after Cincinnati's 11-1 loss to Los Angeles. "Nobody really suspected anything. To find out in the middle of the game was very discouraging."

In recent years, Griffey has been plagued by injuries.

He missed more than a month in 2001 because of a torn hamstring that bothered him throughout that season. He spent really long stints on the DL in 2002 because of a torn knee tendon and a torn right hamstring.

He was on the DL twice again last year for a dislocated right shoulder and torn ankle tendon.

This year, he had to drop out of the All-Star Game after tearing his right hamstring.

Griffey was hitting .253 with 20 homers and 60 RBIs.

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## Mets' Piazza, Glavine out; Benitez back with Marlins

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Piazza, the New York Mets' top hitter, and left-hander Tom Glavine, one of the club's best pitchers, will be out until late August because of injuries.

Piazza was placed on the 15-day disabled list Wednesday, retroactive to Aug. 7, because of inflammation in his left knee.

The Mets said that Glavine won't pitch again until at least Aug. 21 as he recovers from injuries received in an automobile accident.

Glavine was hurt Tuesday while riding in a taxi cab traveling from LaGuardia Airport to nearby Shea Stadium, and lost his two front teeth. He missed his scheduled start Wednesday against Houston.

Piazza, an 11-time All-Star, is batting .276 with 17 home runs and 44 RBIs this season, but has slumped badly since the end of June. Glavine has an 8-10 record.

### Marlins activate Benitez

MIAMI — Closer Armando Benitez was activated from the disabled list Thursday by the Florida Marlins after being sidelined for three weeks with elbow inflammation.

Benitez ranks fourth in the major leagues with 33 saves and his ERA of 1.25 ranked third among relievers.

He last pitched July 22 against Philadelphia.

The Marlins optioned right-hander Ben Howard to Triple-A Albuquerque on Wednesday to make room for Benitez.

### Royals recall Guiel

CHICAGO — The Kansas City Royals on Wednesday recalled outfielder Aaron Guiel from Class AAA Omaha and placed outfielder Dee Brown on the 15-day disabled list with a left ribcage injury.

Guiel started the season with the Royals and hit just .173 in 24 games before being placed on the disabled list May 16 with blurred vision in his left eye.

Last season, Guiel hit .277 with 15 home runs and 52 RBIs for Kansas City. He was batting .310 for Omaha in 2003.

Brown was hitting .243 with two home runs and 15 RBIs for the Royals in 43 games.

### Mussina has rehab outing

COLUMBUS, Ohio — New York Yankees right-hander Mike Mussina pitched three scoreless innings Wednesday night in a rehabilitation start for Class AAA Columbus.

Mussina (9-6), who went on the disabled list July 6 because of a strained elbow, allowed two hits, struck out five and didn't walk a batter while throwing 46 pitches — 29 strikes.

# Ramstein, Saudi Arabia to play for title

## Teams set up rematch of 2003 championship in Transatlantic Regional

BY RUSTY BRYAN  
Stars and Stripes

KUTNO, Poland — Saudi Arabia and Ramstein moved into Friday's title game of Little League Baseball's Transatlantic Regional tournament with decisive victories in Thursday's semifinals.

Saudi Arabia, the No. 1 seed after pool play, crushed Naples 22-0 and Ramstein defeated London 6-2.

For the second straight year, Saudi Arabia and Ramstein will play at 2 p.m. Friday for a berth in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa. Saudi Arabia is the four-time defending champ in the event.

**Ramstein 6, London 2:** "Now all we've got to do is slay the dragon," Ramstein assistant Gus Ortiz said after pitcher Andrew Bossert went the distance against London in 80-degree sunshine that again graced play here.

Bossert, who had been scheduled to rest his injured foot another day, was pressed into service when a dispute over how many innings another Ramstein pitcher, Stephen Braden, had worked made him ineligible to throw Thursday.

Bossert responded by shutting down London, giving up six hits and striking out four.

"I wasn't tired, but it's hard pitching a whole game," said Bossert, who read about this tournament as a new arrival in Ramstein last August and made playing here his goal.

"I've never pitched more than four innings before."

Bossert used his curveball to keep the London hitters off balance. A two-run double to Matt Braun was the only threat London could muster.

Ramstein's defense was solid, too.

"We played great defense," coach Andre Murray said as he hugged his players after the game, "and our hitters came alive."

Jacob Groth had three singles and two



RUSTY BRYAN/Stars and Stripes

**Naples third baseman Cody Bergen fields a ground ball off the bat of Joel Reimer during a 22-0 loss to Saudi Arabia on Thursday in Kutno, Poland. Reimer beat Bergen's throw to first base for one of his two hits.**

RBIs. Groth had the benefit of having runners on base each time because London chose to intentionally walk Chris Johnson, who leads the tournament with five home runs.

"There was no pressure," Groth said of having to extract the price for walking Johnson. "It was fun."

So determined were the London coaches not to let Johnson beat them that they inten-

tionally walked him twice with the bases loaded.

Johnson said he wasn't too upset about not getting the chance to hit.

"Kind of," he said, "but it's a sign of respect."

Ramstein now has to take on Saudi Arabia, which beat the German champs 12-1 earlier in the week.

"Forget that 12-1 game," Ramstein's Dreshawn Murray said. "We're going to Pennsylvania and eat at Red Lobster."

**Saudi Arabia 22, Italy 0:** Naples — a 20-0 loser to Saudi Arabia earlier in the week — tried to make defensive changes to slow their opponents on Thursday.

Naples coaches moved acrobatic shortstop Devon Mitchell to left field, catcher Tyler Hall to third and turned short over to Tyler Jacobson.

"We know where the ball's going to go," Naples assistant coach Dwight Smalls said as the game got under way.

Getting to it was another matter.

Catcher Colt Hankamer ripped a shot into the left field corner to open the game and Saudi Arabia was on its way. Before the first inning was over, Saudi Arabia had sent 15 batters to the plate, scoring 10 runs.

Mark Lumpa hit a three-run homer in the frame and finished the game 4-for-4.

In the third inning, Saudi manager Tommy Bumstead began giving every batter the bunt sign to keep the scoring down. Saudi Arabia still scored nine runs in the inning, helped by five Naples errors.

The last 22 Saudi batters of the game were instructed to bunt.

Naples managed four singles in the game.

"I told our last three batters to get on their heels and swing for the fences," Smalls said.

"You never know, you might hit it."

They'll get another chance to pull the trigger at 11 a.m. Friday when they play their third place game against London.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: [brayan@mail.ustripes.osd.mil](mailto:brayan@mail.ustripes.osd.mil)

# Little League tries to maintain growth overseas

BY RUSTY BRYAN  
Stars and Stripes

KUTNO, Poland — With the addition of a championship-caliber softball field this fall, Little League Baseball's European Region's complex continues to grow. Expansion of the game has been uneven, according to the assistant director of the organization's European Region.

"We had 130 leagues this year in our region (Europe, the Middle East and Africa)," said Shawn Sombati, who estimated the region encompasses 8,500 of Little League's 3 million players worldwide. But "we've had higher numbers in the past."

Money issues are mainly responsible for the wavy pattern on the region's growth chart, according to the 29-year-old Sombati.

"A lot of federations have trouble coming up with the money to charter their leagues," he said. "While a lot of countries will do it if they don't plan to send a team to the tournament is not charter them."

Little League isn't about tournaments, Sombati said.

"It is based on getting as many kids participating as possible. We want them to be included. If they



RUSTY BRYAN/Stars and Stripes

**Little League's Europe Region assistant director Shawn Sombati, 29, holds his personal contribution to the expansion of Little League in Europe, son David, 9½ months, at the Edward J. Piszek Stadium in Kutno, Poland.**

can't afford the fees, there are things we can do."

Lack of trust is another reason that national baseball and softball federations are sometimes reluctant to charter their leagues.

"Some federations think we're going to come in and take over their youth programs and their money," Sombati said. "But we want them to understand that we're not a threat."

London Area Little League President Ron Pasch, who is about to begin his fourth year on the job, said he has found Little League officials to be invaluable and he's enthusiastic about what the Little League headquarters — mainly Europe Region Director Beate Kuszuha — has done for the program in his area.

"Beate has been very supportive and helpful of our league," he said. "She's given us an appreciation of the benefits available from Little League and what we need to do to get ready for the tournament."

In a situation involving expatriates, where there's so much turnover, it's nice to have someone who can tell you how to do things," Pasch added.

Progress is also being made in places far away.

"Uganda is going strong," Sombati said. "We have a lot of expatriates there working with the schools."

Sombati said the win-at-all-cost philosophy sometimes hampers Little League's efforts in Europe.

"In some countries, the emphasis is on winning. There might be three or four clubs located in a big city, but they draw only the best players from all over the

country," Sombati said. "They see Little League as competition for play."

To deal with the baseball's obscurity problem in some areas, organized baseball sends former professional players abroad to conduct clinics and demonstrations, Sombati said. And the cable channel Eurosport used to televise a Little League game each week, Sombati said.

"But in places like Poland, there's nothing on TV. It's hard to spread the word."

In those cases, people who have lived in the States or seen movies about the game are the key to getting things started.

"Youth groups and churches ... can adopt a Little League team right away," Sombati said. "In Ukraine, they're starting leagues at orphanages. The programs are getting better all the time."

Sombati said Little League devotes all the resources it can to building the game in the European region, providing assistance, instruction, encouragement and whatever money is available.

"Little League is an organization with good financial backing," Sombati said, "but there's only so much we can do."

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: [brayan@mail.ustripes.osd.mil](mailto:brayan@mail.ustripes.osd.mil)



# Coach: Jones will run on U.S. 400-meter relay team

The Associated Press

GEORGIPOULIS, Greece — Marion Jones is firmly on the 400-meter relay team and, if all goes as planned, she will run all three rounds of the event in the Athens Olympics, the U.S. women's coach said Thursday.

Coach Sue Humphrey said Jones and three other sprinters had separated themselves from the others.

The women's relay squad would be, in order, Angela Wil-

## Olympic briefs

iams, Jones, Lauryn Williams and LaTasha Colander.

It's the same team that ran 41.37 seconds in Munich on Sunday.

"That's three-tenths of a second off the world record," Humphrey said before she and a group of athletes left for Athens Thursday evening to participate in Friday night's opening ceremony.

Jones only has qualified for the long jump after winning an unprecedented five medals in Sydney four years ago.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency is investigating Jones but has not charged her with any offense. Humphrey said that she has talked about Jones' situation with USA Track & Field officials and has heard nothing that would prevent her from being a part of the relay squad.

Humphrey said she would pre-

fer to use the same team through all three rounds. That would mean Jones would compete in the long jump finals and the relay semifinals Aug. 27. Lauryn Williams and LaTasha Colander are entered only in the 100 meters, with finals Aug. 21. Angela Williams is in the relay pool, meaning she's not entered in any individual events. Humphrey said she has not decided on the fifth and sixth members of the team.

## Staley will carry U.S. flag

ATHENS, Greece — Dawn Staley will carry the U.S. flag during Friday's opening ceremony, a highlight in an Olympic career that includes two gold medals.

Staley, the first basketball player to lead the U.S. delegation in an Olympics, was chosen by cap-

tains from each of the U.S. teams. Staley, 34, played for the WNBA's Charlotte Sting and coaches the women's basketball team at Temple. Staley is the University of Virginia's career leading scorer with 2,135 points.

## S. Korean sets archery record

ATHENS, Greece — South Korean Park Sung-hyun set an individual world record of 682 points Thursday during the ranking round of the Olympic archery competition. Park broke the 72-arrow mark of 679, set in May by Italian Natalia Valeeva.

The team of Park, Lee Sung-jin and Yun Mi-jin also set a world record of 2,030 for the 216-arrow ranking round. The mark of 1,994 also was set by South Korea in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Yun was a member of that team.



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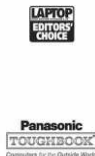
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## TALL, FROM BACK PAGE

The roster also includes Shawn Marion, a member of the U.S. team that lost three times — to Argentina, Yugoslavia and Spain — in Indianapolis during the 2002 World Championships.

The others are: Carlos Boozer, Amare Stoudemire, Lamar Odom, Dwyane Wade, Carmelo Anthony and Stephen Marbury.

The young American players could be caught off-guard by the reception they'll receive in Athens during the Summer Games amid an environment of heightened anti-American sentiment.

"Most of these guys have been adored wherever they've played," U.S. coach Larry Brown said. "Compared to Ohio State at Indiana, or North Carolina at Duke, I guess it'll be taken up a notch or two. It's going to be an interesting thing to see how our players respond."

The neophytes will quickly discover that international crowds are far more boisterous than the ones back home, and the referees are different, too. The international game tends to be far more physical, and referees' calls can be a problem at the worst possible moment.

In the semifinal game against Lithuania in the Sydney Olympics, the Americans led by two points and had possession with the clock winding down late in regulation when a jump ball was called.

In a ruling that continues to baffle Brown, a jump ball violation again called against Antonio McDyess and the referees quickly awarded the ball to Lithuania. Guard Sarunas Jasikevicius dribbled downcourt and tossed up a three-pointer that barely missed, sparking the U.S. team the humiliation of losing for only the third time in the Olympics.

American teams have com-

plied a record of 109-2 in Olympic play, the only losses coming in 1972 and 1988.

Their competition will be strong in Athens, with Lithuania, Serbia and Montenegro, Spain and Argentina expected to be among the teams competing for the gold medal.

Serbia and Montenegro will be forced to do without sharpshooter Peja Stojakovic. But Lithuania will feature the NBA's Darius Sargis, and Spain will be anchored by Pau Gasol of the Memphis Grizzlies.

Argentina's team includes Ginobili and other players who have spent at least a season or two in the NBA and several years playing professionally in Europe. More important is those players' familiarity with each other after playing together on junior teams before graduating to the national team.

Not only has the U.S. team played together for less than two weeks, but it also has a few personalities — most notably Marbury and Jefferson — who don't particularly like one another.

Brown, who chased after the referees in Sydney following the U.S. team's close call against Lithuania, will have to convince his youngsters that the Olympics will be anything but cakewalk. A 5-1 record in pre-Olympic games and a few close calls against lesser foes likely got the Americans' attention.

"We have the talent, and we also have coaches that really pushed us," said Brand, who vividly recalled assistant coach Greg Popovich's face turning red as he exhorted the U.S. team to prepare for a big challenge against Argentina last summer.

"That fervor was inside of us, and we were ready to play," Brand said. "Coach Pop and Coach Brown, they're going to let the players know it's not going to be easy."

# Giants start Warner over Manning — for now

The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Kurt Warner will start ahead of Eli Manning in the New York Giants exhibition opener.

Coach Tom Coughlin made that announcement Wednesday, but added that the competition for the starting job between the two-time MVP and the No. 1 pick in last April's draft remains tight.

"Are they even? I would say 'Yes,'" Coughlin said in describing Warner to start Friday night against Kansas City at Giants Stadium.

"Whoever has the opportunity to play with the starters, that's who usually has his better practices. From that standpoint, they are. Now we will see how they separate out."

Warner will play into the second quarter, with Manning running the offense until at least the middle of the third quarter. Jesse Palmer, television's "The Bachelor," will finish, meaning the Giants will put three celebrity QBs on the field against the Chiefs.

"I've been a backup before so it won't be

## Sports briefs

hard," said Manning, who signed a six-year, \$45 million contract last month. "Kurt's already played a bunch of games, and he knows what it's like. It's my job to watch and learn from him and just try to get a feel of the game."

## Cardinals' Boldin has knee surgery

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Wide receiver Anquan Boldin, last season's offensive rookie of the year, had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee Wednesday and is expected to miss at least eight weeks.

Cosch Dennis Green initially said an MRI found "a slight tear" in the cartilage and thought Boldin would be able to return within two weeks. But during the procedure, doctors found and repaired a more significant tear, Green said.

## Lions LB out longer than expected

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — Linebacker Boss Bailey will miss much of the season while recovering from knee surgery.

Bailey injured his right knee in an Aug. 3 practice. He underwent arthroscopic surgery Wednesday in Athens, Ga., where doctors discovered torn cartilage that had not shown up in previous tests.

Coach Steve Mariucci declined to put a timetable on Bailey's return, but said the Lions hope to have him back this season.

## Wife loses in U.S. Women's Amateur

ERIE, Pa. — Golf sensation Michelle Wie blew a late lead, losing the last three holes and her match to In-Bee Park in the second round of the U.S. Women's Amateur on Thursday.

Wie was 2 up going into the 16th hole before leaving the tournament early for the second straight year. The 14-year-old Wie lost in the first round in 2003.

"I knew she was going to come back ... I left myself in a really hard position," Wie said.

Wie, who tied for 13th place at the U.S. Women's Open in July, has been widely watched as an amateur. Hundreds of fans followed her Thursday. After her match, a disappointed Wie signed autographs for

several young boys and girls waiting for her near the 18th green.

## Thrashers' Healey to be arraigned

ATLANTA — Atlanta Thrashers forward Dany Healey will be arraigned next month on vehicular homicide charges in the 2003 crash that killed teammate Dan Snyder.

Healey will enter his plea Sept. 16, two days before the Thrashers are scheduled to open training camp.

Healey, 23, was driving his black 2002 Ferrari, with Snyder in the passenger seat, when it ran into a brick pillar and iron fence outside an Atlanta condominium on Sept. 29.

## Nets sign free agent Mercer

NEWARK, N.J. — The New Jersey Nets signed free-agent guard Ron Mercer to a two-year contract worth just over \$3 million Thursday.

The seven-year veteran fills the team's hole at two guard and adds another scoring threat to go alongside Jason Kidd.

## Accuser's dad scolds judge in Bryant case

The Associated Press

DENVER — Pressure is mounting on the judge overseeing Kobe Bryant's sexual assault case, with prosecutors citing courtroom gaffes as a reason for seeking the indefinite delay of the NBA star's criminal trial and the father of his accuser blasting the bench for bias against the prosecution.

Prosecutors requested the delay even as they made moves to appeal a key ruling in the case, arguing to the Colorado Supreme Court that the accuser's sexual activities should not be admitted as evidence. If accepted, the appeal could delay the trial for weeks.

The legal moves came as the father of Bryant's accuser wrote a blistering letter to District Judge Terry Ruckriegel saying his family had "lost trust that we can obtain a fair trial in your court."

"It has been painfully obvious that you treat the defense as if they can do no wrong and the prosecution and my daughter's attorney as if you have something against them or this case," he wrote in a letter filed with the court on Monday and posted on the Web site of the Vail Daily and KUSA-TV on Wednesday.

Bryant, 25, has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault. He has said he had consensual sex with the woman, then 19, at the Vail-area resort where she worked last summer. Jury selection is scheduled to begin Aug. 27.

Experts said it was unlikely Ruckriegel will agree to a delay at such late notice. Nearly 1,000 residents have been mailed jury summonses, witnesses have been scheduled to testify, and the judge and attorneys have cleared their calendars for September, said Craig Silverman, a former prosecutor.

"It is an incredible logistical task to reschedule all of this," he said. "What will happen is once the continuance is denied, I would not be surprised if the prosecution throws up its hands and says, 'Well, then, we cannot proceed.'"

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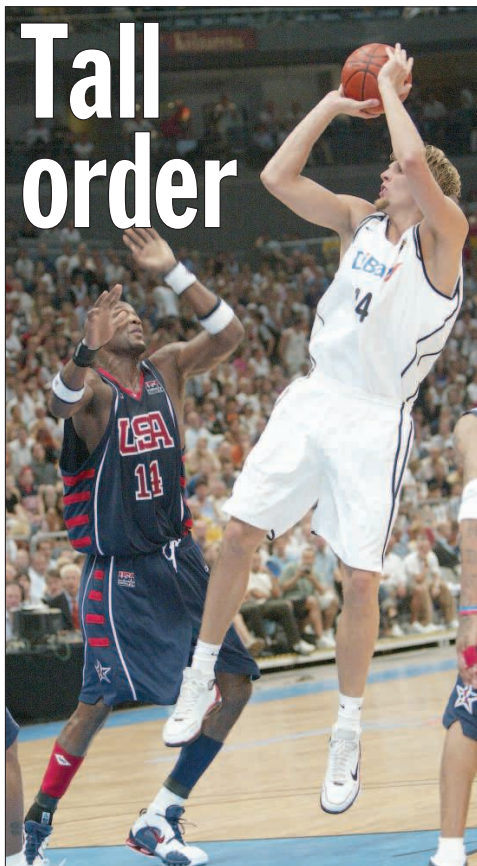


## SPORTS



Phillies pitcher Wolf homers twice in victory;  
Reds center fielder Griffey out for season,  
Page 27

## Tall order



Lamar Odom, left, defends Germany's Dirk Nowitzki in a game the U.S. won on a last-second shot.



Team USA's Lamar Odom, right, drives against Dejan Tomasevic, left, of Serbia and Montenegro during an exhibition game Aug. 6. The U.S. went 5-1 during its pre-Olympic tour. The Americans play Puerto Rico in their opener on Sunday.

AP

## U.S. men's team no longer a lock for Olympic gold

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

Manu Ginobili seemed flabbergasted after being asked why his team played so poorly last summer in the gold medal game of the Olympic qualifying tournament in Puerto Rico.

Argentina had been steamrolled 106-73, the Americans dunking and dominating with equal flair in one of the most impressive displays of athletic brilliance in the long and staggeringly successful history of U.S. national basketball teams.

"What? You didn't expect us to beat them, did you?" Ginobili asked.

Actually, some folks did.

Argentina had defeated a U.S. team of NBA players in the 2002 World Championships, then stayed even with the Americans for all but the final minute of a second-round game in the Tournament of the Americas.

But as Ginobili hinted, Argentina expected to see the Americans' best effort in the gold medal game — and that's exactly what happened.

After one particularly dominant stretch that included five alley-oop dunks in a span of six possessions, the Americans — with a star-laden team including Tracy McGrady, Jermaine O'Neal, Vince Carter, Mike Bibby,

Elton Brand, Kenyon Martin and Ray Allen — led 53-19.

Argentina's players hung their heads, their minds causing their body language to convey the obvious: The Americans have the best basketball team in the world, case closed.

Or at least they did.

America won't be sending as strong of a team to Athens, and the men's basketball gold medal is more up for grabs than it has been in 16 years.

Security concerns, fatigue, injuries,

indifference and a pending criminal trial have knocked some of the biggest names off the U.S. roster and prevented several of their most worthy replacements from stepping in.

Only Tim Duncan, Allen Iverson and Richard Jefferson remain from the team that won the Tournament of the Americas, and the rest of the roster was filled

with some of the NBA's best young players — almost none of whom have any experience playing under international rules in front of hostile crowds.

Among the new U.S. players are LeBron James, the NBA rookie of the year, and Emeka Okafor, who was picked second overall in this year's draft by the expansion Carolina Bobcats.

"I have a chance to get a gold medal," Okafor said. "That's one of the reasons I jumped at this opportunity. I'm really looking forward to it."

## U.S. roster

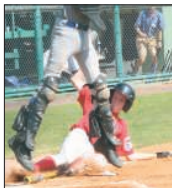
Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Age
Carmelo Anthony	F	6-6	20
Carlos Boozer	F/C	6-9	22
Tim Duncan	C	7-0	28
Allen Iverson	G	6-0	29
LeBron James	G	6-8	19
Richard Jefferson	F	6-7	24
Stephen Marbury	F	6-2	27
Shawn Marion	F	6-7	26
Lamar Odom	F	6-10	24
Emeka Okafor	F/C	6-10	21
Andre Stoudemire	F	6-10	21
Dwyane Wade	G	6-4	22

■ **Stripes Timeout: 2004 Olympics**  
guide in the center of this edition

SEE TALL ON PAGE 29

Ramstein,  
Saudi Arabia  
to meet in final  
of Little League  
Transatlantic  
Regional

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Jarrett, other  
early opponents  
of Nextel Cup's  
revamped scoring  
system starting  
to see advantages

Page 24



Northern Ireland's  
Clarke gets off  
to good start in  
PGA Championship

Page 25